

US takes little risk in using force to deal with Saddam

GIVEN that he has acted on behalf of his predecessor, President Clinton can expect bipartisan support at home for his strike against Iraq.

The intelligence case that there was a plot to assassinate George Bush appears strong and, by and large, Americans do not seem perturbed by distant military operations that carry no risk of casualties.

Nor is there likely to be much concern about misgivings expressed abroad. Few are speaking up in defence of President Saddam Hussein: the major point of criticism is of double standards. Air strikes against Muslims, whether in Somalia or Iraq, seem to cause little discomfort. By contrast, air strikes on behalf of Muslims rarely appear appropriate. In this way the failure to act to spare Bosnia its fate will long serve



Lawrence Freedman argues that although Saddam has limited means of retaliation against an American air strike, he tends to benefit in propaganda terms at home. The likely losers are Kurds in the northern enclave

to qualify any substantial exertion of power elsewhere.

However, it is by no means clear that much more will be achieved in the Gulf than is being achieved in Bosnia. The public veto on high-risk strategies limits what can be achieved in both. The only military question which appears to be asked is not, "What are we trying to achieve?" but "What can be done by aircraft or cruise missiles?"

Serbia could be punished by an air strike as easily as can Iraq: the main difference lies with the ease of retaliation.

America's allies, if not America itself, have personnel in range of outraged Serbians. The Iraqis have few means of retaliation against the Americans, other than the sort of operation they were foiled in mounting against President Bush.

Those most at risk may be the Kurds, whom Saddam has been trying to squeeze for some time. They also have to make do with no-fly zones and dare not assume any more help than can be given by the United States when facing pressure from enemy land forces. Up to

now Iraq has concentrated its land campaign against the Shias to the south (without effective hindrance by Western powers) rather than the Kurds to the north. Iraq has built up sufficient forces for a land assault against what has become in effect an autonomous Kurdish state. It may still be tempted to see just what risks President Clinton is really prepared to take on behalf of those with whose cause he claims to sympathise.

The trouble with risk-free military operations is that

they can only achieve a restricted set of political objectives. In this case, President Clinton is putting down a marker with respect to further Iraqi terrorism and sending out a general "Don't mess around with America" sort of message. Notably this action was taken under article 51 of the UN charter, which provides self-defence, rather than in support of the many UN resolutions geared to Iraq. Nonetheless Les Aspin, his defence secretary, has added a "dumb Saddam" hint to the Iraqi elite.

This may revive the central tension in American policy between the need to ensure that Iraq complies with the UN resolutions and the sense that, until Saddam has been deposed as president, Iraq can never become part of the community of nations. When the previous spat occurred

between Iraq and the US last January, the air and cruise missile strikes lasted about a week. The planes were largely directed against the Iraqi defence system, while the missiles picked out a symbolic target close to Baghdad. As with this weekend's strike the symbolism of the target, this time supposedly the nerve centre of Iraqi intelligence operations, may exceed its practical value. It would be surprising if the destruction of a building would be itself spell the end of all Iraqi covert operations.

Also as with January, a cruise missile strike has produced civilian casualties. However "smart" they may be, pilotless aircraft can not be as careful in the execution of plans as can those with pilots.

Hospitalities concluded with an Iraqi statement on Janu-

ary 19 offering Mr Clinton, who was to be inaugurated the next day, a ceasefire and the prospect of a new start in Iraqi-American relations. The Clinton administration promised nothing, but there was no reason to ignore the opportunity to remove one foreign policy problem from the overflowing in-tray inherited from President Bush.

The administration still demanded Iraqi compliance with all UN resolutions, and has been making some attempt to get close to the Iraqi opposition. However, at the same time it has sought to depersonalise the conflict, getting out of the previous fix by which policy could never be satisfied until Saddam was removed from power.

Saddam is still dragging his feet on UN resolutions — the most recent stand-off has arisen over a refusal to allow

destruction of chemical production equipment and the installation of remote cameras at two rocket test sites near Baghdad.

The strikes in January were described as spankings, rather than beatings. Spankings do not really undermine Saddam's position: he has survived them before. He can portray survival as an achievement in itself, while his peoples' anger at their wretched position will be directed against vindictive foreigners.

The confrontation with Saddam is one for the long-term. The latest episode confirms there is no obvious diplomatic solution so long as Saddam clings on to power in Iraq.

Lawrence Freedman is Professor of War Studies at Kings College, London

Retaliatory strike raises Clinton standing at home

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Clinton did more than just punish President Saddam Hussein of Iraq for the attempted assassination of former President Bush. America's leader also did much to restore his own domestic political standing.

The swift, tough, no-nonsense retaliation against Saddam on Saturday night won enthusiastic bipartisan support on Capitol Hill. It will help to offset the many faux pas that have made Mr Clinton the least popular new president of modern times and diminish his reputation for vacillation.

"The Iraqi attack against President Bush was an attack against our country and against all Americans. We could not and have not let such action against our country go unanswered," the president told the American people in a stern and forceful Oval Office address immediately after the raid. "From the first days of our revolution, America's security has depended on the clarity of this message: Don't tread on us."

The attack may also im-

As missiles hit Baghdad, the president shook off his image as a ditherer. Relations with the Pentagon may now improve

prove Mr Clinton's rocky relations with the military. Although he is the first president since Franklin Roosevelt never to have worn a uniform, he has now quelled doubts about his readiness to take tough

US POLICY

decisions on the use of force. This was the second time in two weeks that he has ordered military action, the first being the American-led assaults on a Somali warlord's headquarters in Mogadishu.

Mr Clinton's latest action drew comparisons last night not with Jimmy Carter's handwriting in the face of Middle East terrorism, but with Ronald Reagan's 1986 strike against Libya, after the terrorist bombing of a German discotheque had killed an American serviceman.

How the attack would be received in the rest of the world was less clear, especial-

ly given the contrast with Mr Clinton's retreat from his threats to intervene militarily in Bosnia. But some of the president's senior advisers had argued that retaliation was vital to dispel growing doubts abroad about his diplomatic resolve.

A perceived weakness in Washington damages American foreign policy in all areas from international trade negotiations to the Middle East peace talks. Thanks to Saturday's strike and the Senate's approval of his budget plan on Friday, Mr Clinton evidently hopes to attend next week's G7 summit in Tokyo in a stronger position diplomatically and economically.

Last week's arrest of an alleged Muslim extremist ring in New York made it especially important that Mr Clinton should take forceful action. Saturday night's attack was designed to send an unmistakable message not just to Iraq but also "to any nation, group

or person who would harm our leaders or our citizens", the president said. Officials also hoped it might induce Saddam to end his present confrontation with the UN over continuous monitoring of Iraq's missile test sites.

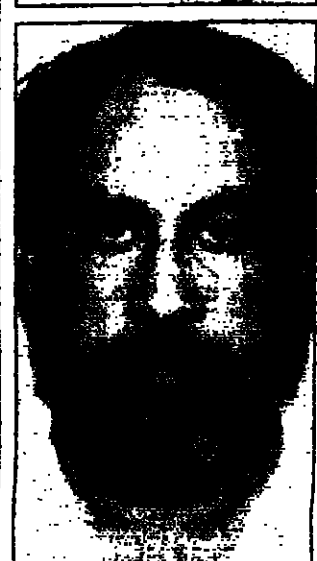
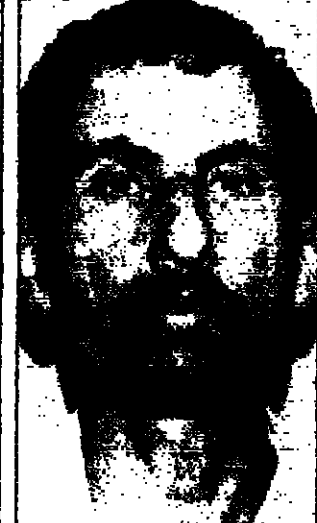
Evidence of Iraq's top-level complicity in the assassination plot was pieced together during a two-month investigation by the FBI and CIA. Mr Clinton called the evidence compelling and Les Aspin, the defence secretary, asserted that the alleged assassination plot was ordered at "the highest levels of the Iraqi government".

On Thursday night, the president was briefed exhaustively on the investigation by Janet Reno, the attorney-general, and James Wolsey, the CIA director. A dozen key allies were informed in advance, as were congressional leaders. Mr Clinton telephoned Mr Bush on Saturday afternoon. Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general, was not told of the attack until just before it was launched.

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Death vehicle: the Toyota Landcruiser seized by Kuwaitis and believed to have carried a bomb intended for George Bush. Wali al-Ghazali, above right, and Raad al-Asadi are accused of plotting to kill the former president



Bitter Iraq sought vengeance

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER, MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT

FIRST details of what President Clinton described yesterday as the "loathsome and cowardly plot" to assassinate his predecessor did not emerge until after former President Bush had completed his triumphant visit to Kuwait in mid-April with a high-ranking party that included James Baker, his former Secretary of State.

A total of 14 men, 11 of them Iraqi, are now standing trial in Kuwait's state security court for their part in the alleged attempt. According to trial evidence and confessions extracted before it, the plotters concealed their main bomb inside a Toyota Land Cruiser which was driven across the border and contained enough high explosive to kill anyone within a 430-yard radius of the blast.

The initial scheme was to detonate the device outside the building in Kuwait City where Mr Bush was due to receive an honorary degree, as part of elaborate celebrations to mark the emirate's liberation two years earlier. In the event of

failure, the plotters are said to have had a fallback plan for a suicide bomber to attach explosives to his body and kill the architect of the Gulf war coalition by detonating them in a fashion similar to that



which recently killed President Premadasa of Sri Lanka. Kuwaiti sources said that the vehicle involved had initially been stolen from Kuwait during the 1990 invasion and that the assassination squad, which included three Kuwaitis, was detained the day before Mr Bush's arrival.

American FBI and CIA agents were dispatched to Kuwait to assist in the investigation. They became convinced that the scheme was masterminded by Iraqi intelligence with the full knowledge and backing of President Saddam Hussein, who could not resist the chance to try to take revenge on a Western statesman for whom he had acquired a bitter personal

hatred. Initially members of the American investigation team expressed private doubts about the Kuwaiti interrogation, but later these reservations — broadcast in America in a move which may have given the Iraqis an initial false sense of security — were overcome.

During the court hearing, which resumed in Kuwait only hours before the US attack on Baghdad, two of the defendants, including the alleged ringleader, claimed they had been coerced by Iraqi intelligence into taking part.

On Saturday, the ringleader appeared to retract his confession. But the other defendant gave the court further details of the involvement of the Iraqi authorities, claiming he had been given forged passports by agents in Baghdad.

It is alleged that the vehicle was handed over in the southern port city of Basra, where the team was given a final briefing. Forensic tests later showed that key components were manufactured by the same people responsible for

other bombs previously recovered from the Iraqis.

In the past, leading Kuwaiti officials have been accused of displaying excessive paranoia about the continuing security threat posed by Saddam. But most Western security experts based in Kuwait have never doubted the existence of a plot, despite the consistent denials by the Iraqi government.

Many foreign diplomats believe that sanctioning the plot was evidence of Saddam's misreading of the Clinton Administration. "There might have been an element of wishful thinking," said one diplomat, "but he seemed to believe that military strikes were a thing of the past."

From the outset of the trial, the Kuwaiti authorities have shown no doubt that the case of official connivance was proven. All but two of the accused face the prospect of the death sentence. President Clinton was equally clear about who was responsible: "It was an elaborate plot devised by the Iraqi government."

Attack violates principles laid down in United Nations charter

BY MARC WELER

IT HAS taken some 5,000 years of history to establish the prohibition of the use of force by states. This fundamental principle of international relations, enshrined in the UN charter, has survived manifest violations during the Cold War years.

In 1990-91, the UN and coalition powers dedicated themselves to a re-affirmation of the charter and defeated the invasion of Kuwait. The latest US attack on Iraq places this success in jeopardy.

The charter admits to only three cases of the lawful use of military might. Action may be taken under a UN mandate, to defend a population from extermination by its own government, or in the exercise of the right to self-defence.

In this case, there was no UN authorisation and the Iraqi population was placed in danger, rather than being protected. The right to self-

defence, which has been invoked by the Clinton administration, offers no better justification. According to the charter, the right to self-defence can only be invoked by an armed attack. The



attack must be either ongoing or imminent.

Even if it is admitted that self-defence may be invoked to protect nationals abroad, as was the case when Israel rescued mostly Jewish hostages held in Entebbe, in this case there was no actual or imminent threat and remedies other than the use of force are available. The plot against President Bush had failed. The alleged conspirators are in the custody of Kuwaiti authorities. And it has not been claimed that Iraq was about to launch another terrorist attack.

against America. If self-defence is not applicable, then the only other possible justifications might be reprisal and retaliation. Reprisals are proportionate responses to a breach of international law after requests for redress have failed. Retaliation is merely punitive in character. Although reprisals may be permissible in certain circumstances, the UN general assembly has positively ruled that they may never involve force.

If Washington is permitted to by-pass the United Nations and settle its affairs through cruise-missile diplomacy, other governments may claim a similar privilege.

The author is a Senior Research Fellow at St Catherine's College, Cambridge, and a Fellow of the University of Cambridge Research Centre for International Law.

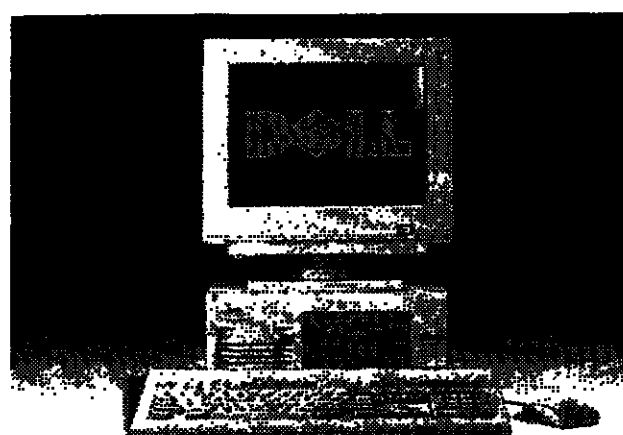
Smith casts doubt on US attack

Continued from page 1
Baghdad last month, said he was ashamed of the British endorsement. He had been told by Iraqis that they had not been involved in any attempt to assassinate George Bush. "I would like to see hard evidence that the Americans have for Iraqi state involvement," he said.

Hours after the US missile attack, a government official travelled to Iraq to visit three Britons jailed for allegedly entering the country. Stephen Howarth, head of the Foreign Office's consular department in London, is hoping to meet Simon Dunn, Paul Ride and Michael Watnwright, who are in prisons in or near Baghdad.

Asked if the attack would put their lives in jeopardy, Mr Major said: "One has to make it clear to international criminals like Saddam Hussein that this sort of behaviour will not be tolerated."

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'State within state' survives to continue its reign of terror

FROM ANDREW FINKE
IN ISTANBUL

AMERICA'S attempt to strike fear into an organisation that itself has long terrorised Iraqi society is likely to yield only limited success, according to Iraqi Kurdish leaders only too used to dodging Baghdad's intelligence network.

"The assumption must be that intelligence will long ago have taken precautions against an assault," Saif al-Dizayee, the representative in Ankara of the Kurdistan Democratic party, said last night. The difficulty is that there is no single organisation, rather a network of groups, part of whose business is to spy on one another. Even before the mass mobilisation at the time of the eight-year Iran-Iraq war, an estimated one-fifth of the working population was engaged in the police, military or some form of "institutional use of force".

The bombing of the intelligence building, however, will interfere with the ability to co-ordinate the intelligence forces. They include the *Estikbarat* or military intelligence which includes the hillside outside cities are what resemble dark grey medieval fortresses. These were the military bases that underpinned the threat of the non-to-secret police acting in the towns themselves.

In the strange conversion of buildings that occurred after the Kurds set up their semi-

Saddam has lavished care and attention on a force whose business is to spy on the nation. The Kurds have acquired painful knowledge of it by becoming its victims

(Soviet military intelligence). Most feared is the *Mukhabarat*, or the political police, responsible to the Baathist party. Much of what is now known of Iraq's state within a state comes from the Kurds' autonomous administration, some of the fortresses have been turned into centres for refugees. Other families seeking winter shelter found themselves squatting in the centre of Suleymania, in the very dungeons where some of their men had been tortured by Saddam's forces.

One of the smaller religious Kurdish Islamic parties has been assigned an execution chamber. In 1991 formerly used by military intelligence, its far wall splattered with a red ochre stain.

Even now the Kurds know that the intelligence network could be revived if the political wind should change. The Kurds devote much effort to counter-intelligence, but even so were unable to prevent incidents such as the lunch-time car bomb that exploded in the market of Irbil last January. Magnetic bombs have also been planted in the United Nations relief convoys in the north and the UN guard compounds have also been targets of attack.

Other Westerners operating in the north judge their relative importance by the differing size of the bounty money they know Iraqi intelligence has put on their heads. In the case of both an Australian and a Belgian aid worker, killed earlier this year, the assassins presumably were able to collect.

Yesterday's bombing will have convinced the Iraqi Kurds of Washington's assurance that they will not settle with Saddam or a similar Baathist leader who might replace him. The Kurds were not prepared to dismiss the raid as simply for American domestic consumption. Relations between Baghdad and the Clinton administration have been worsening, according to Mr Dizayee. "Saddam has had it coming."

uprising in 1991 after the Gulf war. Peshmerga forces captured evidence of systematic plans to exterminate Kurdish towns and villages. With the later seizure of cities such as Irbil and Suleymania, Kurdish forces also uncovered the chamber of horrors used by the *Mukhabarat* to enforce its will.

In practice, the military, police and intelligence services acted as reinforcing layers of intimidation. Fused on the hillside outside cities are what resemble dark grey medieval fortresses. These were the military bases that underpinned the threat of the non-to-secret police acting in the towns themselves.

In the strange conversion of buildings that occurred after the Kurds set up their semi-

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Path of destruction: an Iraqi rescue worker surveys the craters and ruined houses left in Baghdad's Al-Mansour district after the American cruise missile attack early yesterday on the headquarters of the Iraqi intelligence Service. The blasts wrecked sewage and water pipes

Residents caught off guard as explosions rock capital

By ELAINE FOGG

WITNESSES yesterday described the full extent of the damage inflicted upon Iraq's intelligence headquarters in the centre of Baghdad.

Explosions illuminated the night sky as the attack caught Baghdad residents off guard. Many thought they were experiencing yet another military exercise until they heard the wall of sirens as the terrain-hugging missiles hit. Iraqi authorities and hospital sources said at least six people were killed and 10 wounded when some of the missiles hit a nearby residential area. Early reports from civil defence workers, responsible for clearing up, put the number of civilian dead at three.

Witnesses driving by the walled complex said two tall buildings had been severely damaged. Journalists taken to al-Yarmouk hospital saw about 20 people who doctors said were injured in the attack. In al-Mansour, one of Baghdad's smartest areas and the

site of the intelligence centre, three houses were demolished. The missiles had forged craters 30 feet deep. Rescue workers described streets covered in mud, and shards of glass and metal from damaged cars and houses. Sewage and water pipes had smashed under the force of the explosions.

Robert Moore, ITN's Middle East correspondent, speaking on ITN News yesterday, described the scene as he drove into Baghdad in the early hours. "A loud explosion was heard throughout the city. But it was not until first light that the damage to the intelligence HQ became apparent," he said. "We had a brief glimpse over the fence of the walled HQ and it was clear that a large number of cruise missiles had hit the target. Many floors had collapsed,

damage was extensive but the building does not appear to have collapsed." He said that three missiles had landed in a residential area just short of the target. "I saw elderly Iraqis pulled out from beneath the rubble. I saw injured women being treated at a hospital."

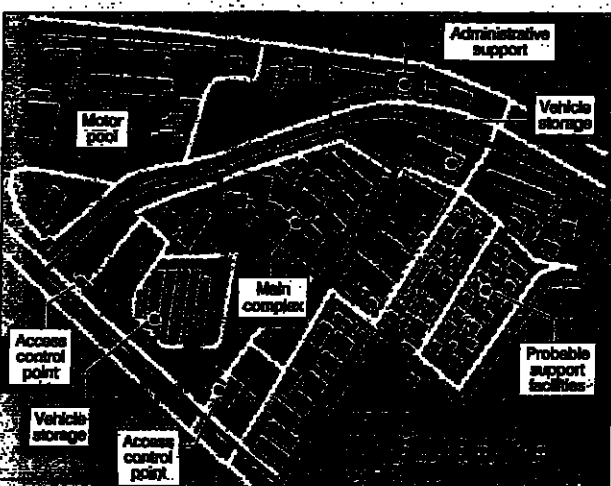
"The regime has been strangely quiet up to now and it is difficult to gauge public opinion because these people are ruled by fear and governed by terror," he said.

Lieutenant-Colonel Akram Mohammed Mahamoud, a civil defence officer, said three civilians were known to be dead beneath a huge pile of debris. He said the dead included Layla al-Attar, a celebrated Iraqi artist, and her husband, Abdulkhaliq Jurweid.

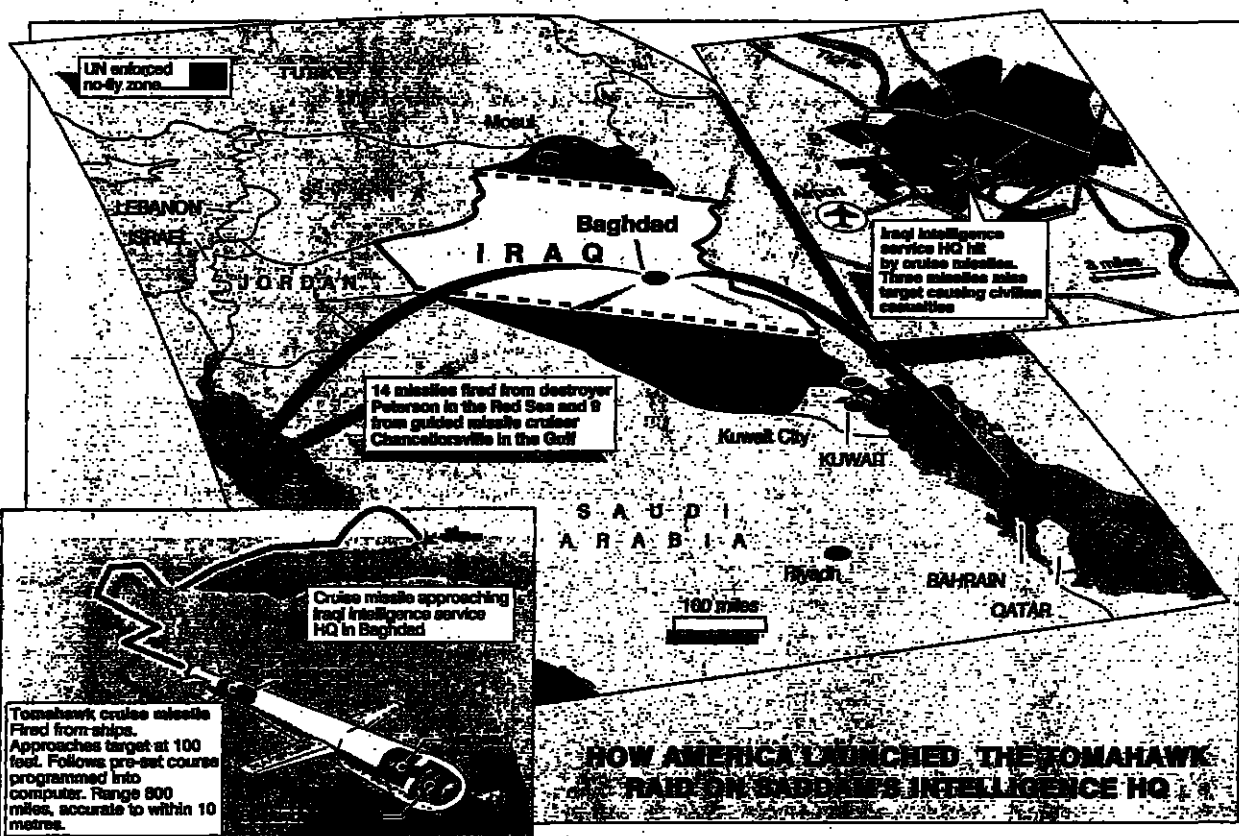
"Does this mean they are going to hit us whenever they want?" asked a passer-by in Baghdad's Bab al-Shari district.



Time of sorrow: an Iraqi man said to have lost two children in the missile raid is helped by friends



Revenge target: attack will disrupt co-ordination of the intelligence forces, but not eliminate them



Clinton opts for Tomahawk

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

PRESIDENT Clinton, like his predecessor, has turned to the Tomahawk when confronted with military alternatives for launching punitive action against Iraq. It is the option US presidents seem to find irresistible.

The missile promises accuracy, guaranteed high explosive punch and maximum political impact because it is the weapon of a superpower. The Tomahawk cruise missile has one other vital characteristic. It can be fired from such a long range that there is no risk to military personnel.

The other options presented to Mr Clinton, including a large-scale air raid on Baghdad, would have involved an element of risk. The involvement of ground forces would have been ruled out for the same reason.

The Tomahawk cruise missile concept was first studied in the early 1970s and initial trials were held in 1977. They came too late for the Vietnam war and until the confrontation with Iraq in 1991, there had been no call for it. Their success in the Gulf war served as a valuable precedent: the

missiles caused substantial damage but the psychological impact was even greater.

The Americans fired 291 Tomahawks during the Gulf war, all but 12 of them launched from two warships, the *USS Pittsburgh* and the *USS Louisville*. The other 12 were fired from submarines.

All the Tomahawks were the BGM109C and BGM109D models with a maximum range of about 800 miles. The longest ranged Tomahawks, the "A" model, which can reach a target more than 1,500 miles away, was not used.

The missile has a high explosive warhead of up to 1,000lb. The Tercom terrain contour-matching guidance system on board enables it to fly to its target in a wave-hopping and hedge-hopping manoeuvre that can outsmart enemy radars. A pre-programmed map and a satellite-linked positioning system keeps the missile on target.

Although the missile travels at subsonic speed, no more

than 600 miles an hour, the Iraqis succeeded in knocking down very few in the Gulf war. During the attack on the nuclear complex south of Baghdad in January, about 45 Tomahawks were fired. The Iraqis destroyed only one, bringing it down in the centre of Baghdad and damaging the al-Rashid Hotel.

The US claims the Tomahawk has an 85-95 per cent accuracy record. The problem is that the few that go astray provide an instant propaganda gift and undermines the purpose of the attack, which in the latest case was intended again to punish President Saddam Hussein.

Were the Americans ever to get involved militarily in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the risk of civilian casualties would rule out the use of the Tomahawk. Bosnia is also not a war that involves military complexes and large concentrations of military equipment.

The Serbs do not present an obvious target for cruise missiles. The terrain contour-matching system on board the missiles would be sorely tested in such mountainous territory.

Muslim nations critical

By RICHARD BEESTON

MUSLIM states from Egypt to Malaysia reacted with astonishment and anger to the US Navy's cruise missile attack on the Iraqi intelligence

headquarters in Baghdad. Although much of the criticism came from some of Washington's fiercest opponents in the Middle East, the attack has clearly enraged America's allies in the region as well.

The Egyptian foreign minister made a veiled criticism of double standards when dealing with Muslims. "I wish American policy positions were as strict towards the crimes that the Serbs are committing in Bosnia-Herzegovina," Amr Moussa said.

Hussein Abu Saleh, the Sudanese foreign minister, said: "This use of terrorism should not prevail in the civilised world, whether by persons or states."

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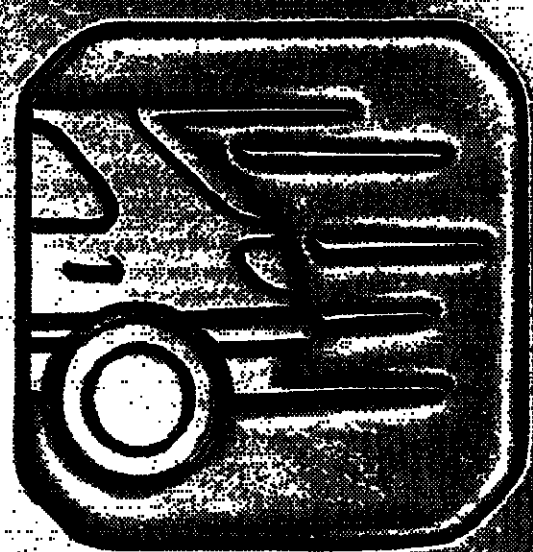
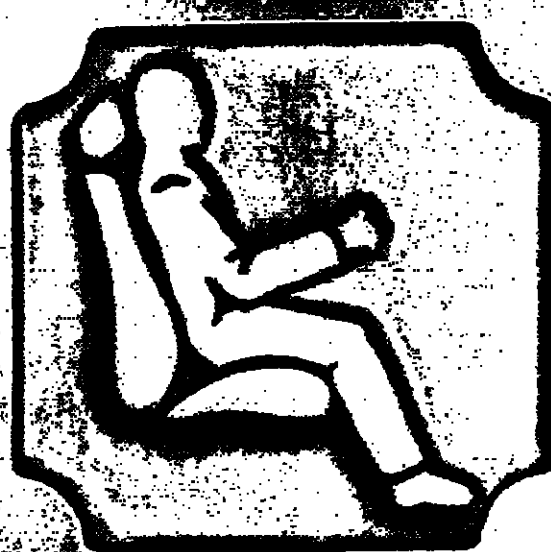
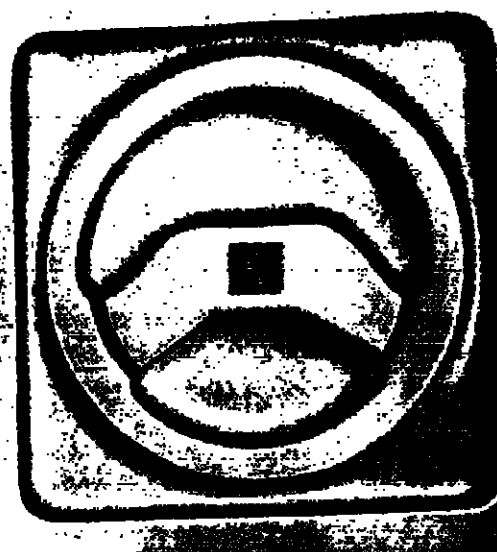
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Parties respond differently to claims about private donations

Labour may hand back 'dubious' cash

By JILL SHERMAN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Labour party yesterday pledged to hand back the £11,000 it was given by a Greek Cypriot fugitive facing fraud charges in Britain, if there was anything "dubious" about the donation.

The latest twist in the continuing row over political funding centred on two donations to the Labour party from Charilaos Costa, a clothes manufacturer who fled to Cyprus in 1991 after his companies went into receivership.

Despite the focus on Labour's finances, the prime minister's hopes that the Asil Nadir issue would die with the resignation of Michael Mates are likely to be dashed again this week when the former Northern Ireland minister launches an attack on investigating methods by the Serious Fraud Office in his resignation statement, expected tomorrow.

The Conservative party yesterday rejected a suggestion by its former treasurer Lord McAlpine that the money donated by Mr Nadir should

be put in a trust pending proof that it was stolen.

Margaret Beckett, the Labour deputy leader, said that party would hand back the £11,000 given by Mr Costa if this was proved to be stolen. Mr Costa is said to have fled abroad after a Serious Fraud Office investigation began into the alleged disappearance of up to £14 million.

Mrs Beckett, speaking on BBC television's Breakfast with Frost programme, denied newspaper reports that Mr Costa had donated £300,000 to the party, but admitted he had given £1,000 in 1987 and £10,000 in 1990.

Labour would investigate the matter and hand the money back "this week" if it was an illegal donation, she said.

On the same programme Lord McAlpine said the £440,000 donated to the Tory party by Mr Nadir should immediately be put in a trust until it was sorted out who was entitled to the money. He said: "I don't think it should stay with the Conservative party. There may be a good moral and legal case for that but not a

sensible case." However, party officials insisted later that the money would be retained unless there was firm evidence that it had been stolen, in which case it would be given back.

"The position has not changed from when it was outlined by Sir Norman Fowler to the home affairs select committee," said one senior official.

John MacGregor, the transport secretary, also failed to back Lord McAlpine's plan. Pressed on BBC Radio 4's The World This Weekend to respond, Mr MacGregor said: "The real point is if we discover it is stolen or illegally obtained we will return it."

Mr MacGregor hinted that it might be difficult to raise the money at the moment, given that the Tory party is facing a financial crisis. "Somehow or other that £440,000 will be found if it is stolen."

Responding to allegations in The Sunday Times about donations to the Tories by wealthy foreign businessmen, the party spokesman said he could not comment on individual donations. However, both Lord

McAlpine and Tory party sources yesterday stressed that all the allegations were "terribly old hat" and had been published in the same paper last year.

Mrs Beckett indicated that Labour would unilaterally publish its accounts showing individual donations over a specified threshold. "The most urgent thing is for accounts to be published," said Mrs Beckett. "It is unacceptable for the Government party to have a £15 million hole in its one-page balance sheet and say these are just anonymous donors who think we are wonderful."

Lord McAlpine countered: "Margaret Beckett thinks people give money to the Tories because they love them. They give money to the Tories because they hate the Labour party and think they are an absolute disaster."

John Smith's plan to reform trade union links looks almost certain to be defeated at this year's party conference following a survey showing lukewarm grass-roots support for the proposals.

A survey of 180 constituencies

shows that Mr Smith has failed to convince members of the need to weaken trade union links with the party by introducing one member, one vote ("OMOV"). While the Labour leader had accepted that it was likely to be defeated by the unions, Mr Smith will be bitterly disappointed that he does not have the firm backing of constituency parties.

The study, carried out by BBC's On the Record programme, shows that fewer than half the constituencies (52) support some variation of OMOV for the selection of parliamentary candidates, while 93 wanted to preserve a protected role for the unions. Five gave no preference.

Union votes already declared for OMOV show Mr Smith can only count on 10 per cent backing him. If the survey results are reflected across all constituencies Mr Smith can only be confident of 25 per cent of the vote at conference, with 65 per cent rallied against him (50 per cent unions and 15 per cent constituencies).

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Chris Patten may give evidence

By ANDREW FIERCE
AND JONATHAN MILES

THE Commons home affairs select committee will decide this week whether to invite Lord McAlpine, the former Tory party treasurer, and Chris Patten, former party chairman, to give evidence to its inquiry into party political funding.

Mr Patten, the governor of Hong Kong, flies back to London this week and is certain to face questions about the reported donations by Hong Kong businessmen and his role as chairman.

Mr Patten has already had two rehearsals. Last week, he told a reporter that when he was party chairman he had nothing to do with and knew nothing about fund-raising.

At the weekend, however, he changed his mind. Asked by the BBC whether he was "fussy" about the source of campaign funds, he replied: "Of course I was."

Sir Ivan Lawrence, the Tory chairman of the committee, confirmed that the issue of their appearance would be raised at the committee's meeting on Wednesday.



Peter Ripstone, the national heritage secretary, blew his own trumpet yesterday with the cast of *Starlight Express* to celebrate National Music Day. The minister joined the show's cast at Broadcasting House, the BBC headquarters, before going on to a steel band jamboree in Trafalgar Square and concerts around London. More than 1,000 events were staged around the country at the weekend.

Putting pride back into communities

By JOHN YOUNG

THE scene of one of Britain's most successful and widely publicised community-led urban renewal projects, a 13-acre site on London's South Bank, is the venue for the launch on Wednesday of the 1993 Community Enterprise Awards, organised by The Times and Business in the Community.

In the 1970s and early 1980s, the future of the site was the subject of a prolonged and bitter battle between property companies that wanted to develop it for hotels and offices and protesters who complained that people living in Waterloo and north Southwark were being driven from their homes. After two rowdy public enquiries, the develop-



ment plans were abandoned in 1984 and residents formed a non-profit-making company which borrowed £1 million to buy the land.

Since then the company, Coin Street Community Builders, has created a small park, a riverside walk and a crafts market at Gabriel's Wharf. Part of the site has been leased

to a housing co-operative which has built 56 houses with gardens. Work started recently on 27 more houses and flats, and the final go-ahead is expected shortly for the company's £20 million redevelopment at Stamford Wharf.

Another successful exercise in small scale urban renewal can be found under and around the arches of the Westway elevated road, where North Kensington Amenity Trust has been active since 1971.

It, too, was born out of protest, when homes and businesses were destroyed to make way for the motorway. At first the land in the immediate vicinity was considered too blighted by noise and pollution for people to live there and was earmarked for car park-

ing and a bus depot. But Kensington and Chelsea council was eventually persuaded of the pressing need for open space and recreational facilities in a notoriously deprived part of London and agreed to make 22 acres available to the trust. Income from commercial tenants has been used to fund a variety of community projects.

Similar schemes have been undertaken in other British cities. In encouraging provision for social needs, the awards are also intended to stimulate the creation of new businesses, jobs and training opportunities, and to promote wealth creation rather than dependence on grants. This year the Prince of Wales has agreed to succeed Lord Scarman as chairman.

£56m tax pair face sentence

By IAN MURRAY

TWO of the three men who became multi-millionaires through the success of Nissan car sales in Britain face sentencing on Wednesday after being caught perpetrating the biggest tax fraud ever uncovered by the Inland Revenue.

One of them, Michael Hunt, 59, deputy chairman of Nissan UK, was found guilty by a ten-to-two majority at Southwark Crown Court on Saturday of conspiring to evade payment of £56,296,527 corporation tax over nine years. The other, Frank Shannon, the company's former financial director and secretary, had already pleaded guilty to tax fraud over one year.

Oskar Botnar, 80, the alleged mastermind of the fraud, is said to be seriously ill and probably safe from extradition in his chalet overlooking Lake Geneva.

During the two-month trial, which cost £2.2 million, the jury heard that the profit made by adding an extra £115 to the price of each of the 1.9 million Nissans sold by the company was piped through Norway, Holland and Bermuda to Switzerland.

Hunt was found not guilty of a second charge of fraud.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Major puts case for British Olympics

The prime minister will today put Manchester's case for staging the Olympic games in the year 2000 to 16 members of the International Olympic Committee (Ronald Faux writes).

John Major will spend 90 minutes at a Downing Street reception in what could be a "make or break" meeting in deciding the venue. The IOC contingent is the largest to visit Britain in the bidding round and includes representatives from Beijing and Sydney. Manchester's chief rivals for the millennium games. Six members from South America are receiving special attention. Their votes could be crucial should Manchester reach the final stage in the bidding. The 91 IOC members will decide on the city at a vote in Monte Carlo in September.

Rain greeted the IOC members' arrival in Manchester on Saturday, but yesterday the skies cleared as the 16 were taken on a helicopter trip over proposed Olympic sites on the outskirts of Manchester and in Liverpool.

IRA sniper 'a coward'

The prime minister condemned the IRA sniper who killed a British soldier at the weekend as a coward yesterday. John Major, speaking at Hillsborough Castle during a visit to Northern Ireland, said John Randall, a 19-year-old private in the First Battalion the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment, had been murdered for protecting innocent people. Private Randall, of Slough, Berkshire, died in co. Armagh on Saturday. It is thought he was killed by the same IRA gang responsible for four similar murders.

BMA attacks Bottomley

Virginia Bottomley, the health secretary, will come under attack today at the British Medical Association's annual conference. Doctors are angry over claims by Mrs Bottomley that "over-performance" by hospitals has resulted in queues for treatment when, they say, lack of cash is to blame. Dr Ian Field, BMA secretary, said: "Many doctors find it extraordinary that after the secretary of state makes such an effort to remove waiting lists, she tells them the reason [for queues] is because they have over-performed."

Ferry pair missing


Coastguards, police and the Greek navy were searching for two 19-year-old men from Britain and Ireland who fell off a ferry near Rhodes yesterday. James Richard Donnelly, a Briton, was doing pull-ups on a railing when he slipped, fell onto the deck and rolled overboard at about 1.30am. Mark Antony, from Ireland, leapt into the sea to help him.

Search for last 10p

The Royal Mint is searching for £30 million in old-style 10p pieces that it estimates are lingering in homes around the country. This last survivor from the pre-decimal days ceases to be legal tender on Wednesday. The old two-shilling silver coin has been with us since 1849 but as the florin has its origins dating back to Edward III in 1343.

Heseltine progressing

The director of the Harley Street Clinic, London, said yesterday that Michael Heseltine was making progress after the heart attack that he suffered in Venice. Robin Thornton would not comment further on the condition of the President of the Board of Trade but said that the clinic would make a fuller statement today.



Urgent recall of poisonous necklace

As a matter of urgency, Oxfam is recalling a Guatemalan seed necklace that has been on sale in some of its shops since June 8th.

Some of the seeds in this necklace contain ricin which is poisonous if swallowed. If somebody has swallowed the seeds, they should call their doctor immediately.

The necklace is about 24 inches long and made of 40-50 seeds. The poisonous seeds are the size and shape of small broad beans and with a mottled, snake-skin like appearance.

Oxfam wants to trace all these necklaces, so if you have bought one please return it to Oxfam as soon as possible. Either send it to Jean Holloway, Oxfam Trading, Mordock Road, Bicester OX6 7RF or return it to any Oxfam shop. A full refund, including any postage, will then be made. No other Oxfam necklaces are involved in this recall.

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Ministers fear lower standards

Universities award 50 per cent more first-class degrees

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

UNIVERSITY students' chances of a first-class degree improved 50 per cent during the 1980s, according to a report published today.

The proportion of firsts had been rising steadily for several years, prompting allegations that some universities had reduced standards. The statistics for 1990-1 show almost 9 per cent of undergraduates being awarded first-class honours, compared with 6 per cent ten years earlier.

The report, published by the universities' statistical record, will give ammunition to academics pressing for the abolition of traditional degree classifications. London University is already considering a move to more detailed student assessment and a national

conference on the subject will take place this week. Employers are anxious not to lose a familiar system, which they use to pre-select candidates for jobs, but the reformers argue the present classifications are unreliable. The division of second-class degrees lacks consistency and the inflation in firsts is fuelling the controversy.

Ministers have warned the universities that the growth in first-class honours, coinciding with the dramatic expansion of student numbers, will raise questions of quality. Prof Garth Williams, director of the Centre for Higher Education Studies, London University, said earlier this month that some universities had a deliberate policy of increasing their

proportions of first- and upper second-class degrees.

Today's figures cover only the traditional universities, although the former polytechnics have also seen consistent growth in the number of firsts.

Cambridge had by far the highest proportion of firsts, awarding top honours to more than one in five undergraduates. The tripos system, which gives students two chances of a first, is partly responsible.

Oxford, where one student in seven took first-class honours in 1990-1, offers the next best chance of a top degree.

All but one of the other universities where more than 10 per cent of undergraduates take firsts are predominantly technological institutions. The University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology awarded the highest proportion outside Oxford and Cambridge, followed by Bath. Bristol had the highest proportion of firsts among the civic universities and was the only one in the top ten.

Science subjects have always produced more firsts than the arts and social sciences. Only one in 35 students was awarded a first in 1990-1 at arts-dominated Aberystwyth University.

Vice-chancellors insist that improved teaching and the extra pressure on students to excel are responsible for the rising numbers of firsts. The pressure will be illustrated in a report by graduate employers this week, which is expected to show a quarter of last year's graduates still looking for permanent jobs.

PERCENTAGE OF FIRSTS 1980-1

Cambridge	21.2	Strathclyde	7.7
Oxford	14.3	Edinburgh	7.6
UMIST	13.0	Nottingham	7.3
Bath	12.9	York	7.3
City	12.2	Bangor	7.2
Sheffield	11.9	Bradford	7.2
Loughborough	11.3	Warwick	7.1
Surrey	10.7	Glasgow	7.0
Bristol	10.3	East Anglia	7.0
Heriot-Watt	10.0	Birmingham	7.0
London	9.5	Queen's Belfast	6.7
Sussex	8.9	Swansea	6.7
Aston	8.2	Bradford	6.6
Brunel	8.1	Dundee	6.3
Southampton	8.0	Exeter	6.0
St Andrews	8.5	Liverpool	6.0
Reading	8.4	Leicester	5.9
Newcastle	8.2	Aberdeen	5.8
Lancaster	8.2	Stirling	5.5
Leeds	8.0	Hull	4.7
Durham	7.9	St David's Lampeter	4.7
Kent	7.9	Essex	4.1
Cardiff	7.8	Ulster	4.0
Manchester	7.8	Aberystwyth	2.8

Writers decry schools policy

By ALISON ROBERTS, ARTS REPORTER

THE government's policy on the teaching of English in schools has been criticised by a body of distinguished authors and educationists.

In a day-long debate at the weekend, the authors John Mortimer and P. D. James, and Professor John Carey, Merton Professor of English at Oxford University, argued that classic English literature should be protected in schools.

Mr Mortimer told the conference on English teaching at the Royal Society of Literature: "My sense of morality developed in great part from the works of literature that I read. Dickens morality is even more important today." He attacked the government's an-

thology of English literature compiled for testing 14-year-olds. The 47-page book condenses the "greats" into 17 poems, two extracts from plays and four from fiction, and two short stories.

Mr Mortimer said that the "little slim volume with little snippets of Doris Lessing and sacrilegiously re-punctuated bit of Dickens" denied children the full breadth of their "national heritage".

The conference was attended by John Patten, the education secretary, who dismissed the criticisms. "I don't think you are ever able to get any ten experts to agree on one anthology," he said.

The list of authors set down

for children aged up to 14 includes Shakespeare, Jane Austen, Dickens, Blake, Coleridge, Tennyson, Orwell, T.S. Eliot and William Golding.

The writer Victoria Glendinning and John Hickman, treasurer of the London Association of Teachers of English, argued against imposing such a prescriptive list. Ms Glendinning said that to do so denied the evolving nature of English literature.

The conference passed a motion in support of Brian Cox, chairman of the National Curriculum English Working Party until 1989. Proposals for the replacement of the curriculum drawn up by Mr Cox are being considered at present.



Youth culture: some youngsters find the crowds, the excitement and the non-stop entertainment a little tiring



Old hands: Glastonbury festival veterans discuss the relative merits of Rolf Harris and Van Morrison

Stabbing mars Glastonbury spirit

By NICHOLAS WATT

A MAN was critically ill in hospital yesterday after being stabbed at the annual Glastonbury festival in Somerset, where 100,000 people camped out for a weekend of music.

Stephen Perkins, 29, from Wolverhampton, and his twin brother, Anthony, were stabbed on Friday night as they tried to enter the 400-acre site through an unauthorised entrance. Anthony was in a comfortable condition. Detectives said they were looking for a man believed to have been controlling the entrance.

Police described the stabbing as the most serious incident in the festival's 23-year history, and reported a dramatic increase in crime this year. By yesterday, with another day to go, they had made 160 arrests and 500 offences had been

reported, mostly theft and drugs related. Last year there were 127 arrests in all.

Chief Insp Barry Williams, of Avon and Somerset police, said "When you get the equivalent of a small town thrown together, with varying age groups and cultures, you are bound to get problems. But most people, including the police, have enjoyed themselves."

On the three dance floors, older hippies, with children in tow, danced alongside youngsters aping the best traditions of the 1970s. Long flowery dresses and beads were in abundance as the audience swayed and cheered to musicians ranging from Van Morrison to Lenny Kravitz and Rolf Harris.

Drugs were easy to buy from the smartly-dressed dealers who walked around shouting "hashish, E, speed". Security guards strummed guitars and

people fed themselves at Leary's Organic Spud Experience and the Mid-night Munchies Cafe, which sold a bowl of cornflakes and milk for 60p.

George Rig, 53, of Hove, East Sussex, is a veteran of eight festivals. He came with his children, and was delighted with the atmosphere. "It gets better and better every year. With the circus it is great entertainment for the children."

Michael Eavis, the farmer who set up the festival in 1970 on the site where his family has lived for six generations, was delighted with the event, although the stabbing and the presence of dealers had dampened his spirits. "The stabbing was a moment of sadness when we thought about what we were doing," he said. "The drugs were also totally out of order and our own security people have made arrests."

Summer is drink-drive season

By TIM JONES

TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

FROM behind the bar of the Doggett's Coat and Badge pub, London, Robert Key, the new roads minister, will tomorrow launch the biggest summer campaign against drinking and driving.

While the road death toll this year shows signs of being the lowest since records began in 1926, the summer months now attract more drunken drivers than the Christmas period.

Encouraged by the success of the pre-Christmas television advertising campaigns, which set out to shock Mr Key is determined to target the summer drinkers.

Figures for 1979-91 show consistently more drink-related accidents in July and August than in November and December. The figures for 1992 show how hard-hitting campaigns have led to dramatic reduction in drink-drivers on the roads. Last August, 20 per cent of the 38,000 motorists breathalysed tested positive, compared with 7.7 per cent of 110,100 stopped last December.

The latest campaign is expected to identify two groups who pose the biggest threat. One is young male motorists who drive out to country pubs. The other comprises recipients of corporate hospitality at events such as Henley regatta and Ascot, where free champagne is often available in unlimited quantities.

Although it welcomes the campaign, the Automobile Association said the government would be "mad" to bow to European Community pressure to reduce the blood-alcohol limit from 80 milligrams per 100 millilitres of blood to 50mg.

Andrew Howard, the AA's head of road safety, said: "It would affect only law-abiding drivers who don't pose a big road safety problem. The people who kill are the hard-core offenders who drive at more than double the limit—they don't give a fig about the present limit and they won't give a fig about a new one."

MPs rally to defence of News at Ten against 'commercial decision'

By ALEXANDRA FREAN AND ANDREW PIERCE

POLITICIANS from all sides of the Commons will this week fight to save News at Ten.

John Smith, the Labour leader, has told Sir George Russell, chairman of the Independent Television Commission (ITC), in a letter that plans to move the programme to an early slot would give the BBC a virtual monopoly of news in the evening.

The change is to be ratified by the ITV companies next Monday. A new time has not been set, but it is believed that they will opt for 7pm. The change is intended to allow uninterrupted films and dramas to be shown, and attract more viewers.

Roger Gale, chairman of the Tory backbench media committee, said the proposal to axe News at Ten was a "crushing mistake". Mr Gale, MP for Thanet North, and a former radio and television producer, is advising Channel 4 to fill the

gap. He said: "If I were Michael Grade [chief executive of Channel 4], I would transfer the Channel 4 news programme from its 7pm slot to 10pm. It would have to become less reflective and more hard-edged."

If Channel 4 took over the vacated 10pm slot, this would

"wipe out" ITV news, he said. "But that is their commercial decision. If the ITV companies want to play political suicide, so be it."

More than 70 MPs have signed an early day motion, tabled by Peter Mandelson, Labour MP for Hartlepool. Mr Mandelson said: "The ITV companies were forced to pay ridiculous amounts of money to gain their licences. It is hardly surprising that they are now letting commercial decisions dominate their scheduling of public service programmes like News at Ten."

Charles Kennedy (Liberal Democrat), Austin Mitchell (Labour) and Nicholas Winter (Conservative) of the all-party media group have also tabled a motion resisting the change. Mr Kennedy said that the current diversity of evening television news programmes provided an important element of choice.



Gale: move would be political suicide

Mum of Year dies on rail track

By MARIANNE CURRIE

A WOMAN who recently won the title North East Mum of the Year has been found dead on a railway line several days after she was reported missing.

Hazel Clark, 30, had been hit by a train on the main East Coast line, near the home of

her former boy friend in Ferryhill, co. Durham. Neighbours said the couple had recently parted and Mrs Clark had been very upset.

Last night her children, Rebecca, 9, Wayne, 8, and Victoria, 6, were being looked after by their grandmother. In April Mrs Clark, from Sunnybrow, co. Durham, won

her title after Rebecca wrote a letter telling competition organisers: "My mummy buys for me, Wayne and Victoria. Daddy left a long time ago, and nobody buys for mummy. Let her win."

A neighbour said yesterday: "We are all thinking about the poor children. She is out of her misery now."

Fourth crossword victory

THE Bristol regional final of The Times Knockando Crossword Championship was won at the Hilton Hotel, Bristol, yesterday by Mr T. A. Owen, who completed the four puzzles in an average time of nine minutes.

Mr Owen, 60, is a development consultant and lives in Borth, Dyfed. This will be his fourth time in the national finals. Second place was taken

by Gp Capt Peter Hutchings, 55, who has just retired from the RAF, with an average time of 10½ minutes. He lives at Wrington, Avon.

Third was Mr John Harding, 40, at 11½ minutes. He lives in Portishead and is a pensions administrator.

All have previously appeared in national finals, which this year take place in London on September 12.

Police quell riot after man is stabbed

A man was stabbed to death in Highbury, north London, as he and a group of friends tried to settle a long-running drug feud, police said. The man, in his early 20s, died from a series of stab wounds as he fled a gang of youths after visiting a flat with two friends.

Shortly after his death, police in riot gear were called in to quell a mob of up to 30 men, throwing bottles and glasses. A police said: "The dead man was killed by a single wound to the heart. He received six or seven stab wounds in total."

Seven people have been arrested in connection with the murder hunt. Four of them are being questioned about the murder and three are being quizzed about grievous bodily harm. The police said little progress had been made in establishing the background to the feud.

Gangland London, page 9

Jobless swell NHS costs

Unemployment is costing the health service more than £70 million a year, according to a report by the Office of Health Economics, a research body funded by the pharmaceutical industry. The cost to GP and pharmaceutical services alone was put at £40 million. The loss in revenue to the NHS in prescription charges was calculated at £30.6 million.

According to the report, unemployment leads to illness through a combination of stress, poverty and unhealthy living. It has been shown that men who have lost their jobs are 12 to 15 times more likely to attempt suicide and twice as likely to die of lung cancer or heart disease than those in employment.

Boat due

Tom McNally, 50, of Liverpool, is due to sail into Miami, Florida, today in the 5ft 4in long Vera Hugh at the end of a 4,000 mile journey which started on February 13 from Sagres, Portugal. It will be the smallest boat to sail from Europe to America.

Child killed

A child died in a head-on road crash near Scotch Corner, North Yorkshire, Sara-Beth Hughes, 21 months, of Middlesbrough, was strapped in a child safety harness in the rear seat of her parents' car. The other passengers escaped with minor injuries.

Plane crashes

A man was killed and another seriously injured after a microlight crashed at Sandown airport on the Isle of Wight. The plane's engine is believed to have stalled in mid-air and it plunged nose-down to the ground.

Knife attack

Michelle McKnight, 29, was stabbed in the front garden of her home in Tweedmouth, Northumbria, after returning home in the early hours from a night out. A 20-year-old man is helping police.

Hats alert

Woolworth is trying to recall 4,000 children's baseball caps because youngsters have been eating the plastic peaks, which have a distinctive "Kids on the move" logo.

Fire death

A man aged 53 from Dagenham, Essex, died at the wheel of his Morris Marina after setting it on fire in the car park of Goodmayes hospital, Essex.

Travelling cook

Barnesley County Council is sending a catering officer to Gorlovka in Ukraine to teach chefs how to cook Yorkshire specialties in time for the opening of the town's latest restaurant, Café Barnesley.

Bond winners

Winners in the weekly premium bond draw are: £100,000, 1585 144010, winner from Doocaster holding £5,081; £50,000, 14709 878134, Norfolk (£1,301); £25,000, 19RW 45210, Hounslow (£3,371).

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West must not be bully in culture's playground

A YEAR ago, the international circus at Rio — the UN Conference on Environment and Development — put environmental issues on the front page. Now they are lucky to be published at all. Yet they have certainly entered public awareness and become part of the currency of ideas. Everyone has heard of the ozone layer and the greenhouse effect, and knows about human population increase and the accelerating loss of plant and animal species.

One aspect tends to be missed: the threat to the diversity of humankind within the bigger threat to the diversity of life. There have been many species of human, of which all but one have died out. I suspect that there would be calls to the police or the zoo if *Paranthropus*, a cousin of more than three million years ago, were found in a suit in Piccadilly. There would be less of a reaction to a nearer relation who died out only 30,000 years ago. I once saw what I think was a Neanderthal on the London Underground. It was good to think that his genes might have survived after all.

Whatever the timing of the divergences between modern humans, we are all remarkably similar. In genetic terms, the differences are minute. Indeed, we also share almost 99 per cent of our genes with chimpanzees. The most important differences between us are not genetic but cultural. In a way unique to our species, cultural evolution has assumed many of the characteristics of biological evolution.

In his book *The Selfish Gene*, published in 1976, Richard Dawkins invented a word for it: memes. Just as genes propagate themselves in the pool of inheritance by descending from body to body through sperm and eggs, so, he suggested, memes propagate themselves in the pool of ideas by leaping from brain to brain through ear, eye and hand. Examples of memes are tunes, ideas, catch-phrases, fashions in clothes, ways of making pots or of building arches.

Memes spread vastly more

quickly than genes. Until modern times their spread was from person to person. But we live in an age of accelerated communication. It is by press, radio and television that ideas, techniques, formulas can travel from one end of the earth to the other in a few seconds. A month ago, I was in Peking. My taxi driver could not speak more than a few words of English. But he knew about the latest pop song from Hong Kong, the achievements of Nigel Mansell in motor racing and the fortunes of Manchester United.

In this fashion, human society has become strangely one, or at least has the potentiality to become so. This may be welcome. At a time when humans have learned aston-

also the centre of the universe and the sun and stars went round it. So huge was the gap between us that we could not communicate. His memes and mine were blocked. It would be the same if any of us could talk to our great grandparents.

At present, the mindset of the industrial West is dominant, and the mindset represented by my monk on Mount Athos and other cultures is recessive. This is largely a result of our technical virtuosity in exploiting the earth's resources for our own benefit and building complex societies whose members enjoy health and living standards that are the envy of others. We are also adept in the use of force. As Hilaire Belloc wrote:

The Times Essay

Our cultural differences should be protected, says Sir Crispin Tickell, for they are an essential part of the human inheritance

ishing new ways of improving their condition as well as destroying each other, the spread of ideas and techniques that would improve common understanding can be seen as an unqualified good. But memes, like genes, are morally neutral. Their effects can be good or bad. They are subject to natural selection and mutation. They can compete, they can co-operate, they can exchange bits of themselves. In the end, the good ones survive and the bad ones perish.

Our particular way of looking at the world — our model or mindset — changes all the time. Mostly we are unaware of the evolution taking place from generation to generation and in ourselves. I was once brought up against this when talking to a monk in one of the monasteries on Mount Athos. He was living, as our ancestors lived, in a mental world tightly bound in time and space. For him the world had begun 4,000 years ago. It was

"Whatever happens, we have got / The Maxim Gun, and they have not."

Humans are remarkably adaptable and, over time, most cultures will adapt in one way or another to ours. Already we can see that Western memes have created antibodies. The rise of fundamentalism in its many forms is just such. It ranges from those who blinker themselves in sacred texts to those who decry the ambiguities of science and long for the comforts of dogma. This internal resistance to external assault can create fevers and irrationalities of all kinds. In the long run, it is probably a necessary part of adaptation.

The corrosive effect of our dominant memes can be compared with the destruction of plants and animals as we reshape the earth's surface for our own uses. As the American biologist E. O. Wilson has said, a fifth or more of plants or animals could vanish or be

doomed to early extinction by 2020 unless we do something about it.

Human diversity runs the same category of risk. It is already obvious that human population increase in some parts of the world is out of balance with the resources to sustain it. Such increase is matched by over-consumption in other parts. One result is that while expectations — the product of rapidly moving memes — continues to rise, the means of satisfying them continues to diminish. There is no realistic prospect that all human beings will ever enjoy the living standards of industrial society.

What can we do to cherish human diversity? In fact, we can no more change the efficacy of our memes than we can that of our genes. It would be foolish to try. Some have already found this out the hard way. In China, successive Celestial emperors believed that they were the rulers of the world and that only barbarians lived beyond their frontiers. To secure protection from the barbarians, a closed society was created. All the greater was the disruption when the barbarians eventually broke in. As a Chinese minister wisely remarked last month, China must respect the second law of thermodynamics, which shows that closed systems eventually undergo entropy and disintegration.

So we cannot fence off human cultures like animals in a zoo or plants in a herbarium. But we can treat them with more respect, honour their values and territories, accept that we have much to learn from them, realise that our memes are as subject to change as theirs and help them — where we can — to adapt and create a synthesis of their culture and ours. I recall the famous — I hope not apocryphal — letter written in the middle of the last century by Chief Seattle of the Duwamish, Suquamish and allied Indian tribes to the president of the United States who had been trying to buy Indian lands. "How can you buy or sell the sky, the warmth

of the land? If we do not own the freshness of the air and the sparkle of the water, how can you buy them? ... We know that the white man does not understand our ways ... The earth is not his brother, but his enemy, and when he has conquered it, he moves on ... He treats his mother the earth and his brother the sky as things to be bought, plundered, sold like sheep or bright beads. His appetite will devour the earth and leave behind only a desert ... Man did not weave the web of life; he is merely a strand in it. Whatever he does to the web, he does to himself."

I believe that the threat of cultural impoverishment is very real. Our victims are indeed ourselves. Just as we can lament the extinction of a plant or animal, so we should lament the death of a language, the end of a tradition and the devaluation of ideas that have often sustained societies over many generations. Cultural geography should be an atlas of many maps of different contours and colours. Its variety is an essential part of the human

inheritance.

We have a new environment secretary. He has a big agenda. Perhaps its most important point is to bring environmental issues, whether physical or human, into the centre of our affairs. Already environment through geography is in the new core curriculum for schools, and courses in environmental studies are springing up in universities.

Business is taking environment into the boardroom through such bodies as the Advisory Committee on Business in the Environment. Annual white papers from the environment department have set out sketches of what has been and must be done. There are new international obligations arising from the Rio conference. But environment has yet to penetrate the heart of politics. It means treating the long term as part of the short term.

□ Sir Crispin Tickell is the Warden of Green College, Oxford. This article is based on his presidential address to the Royal Geographical Society on June 7.



Dealing with global issues: Sir Crispin Tickell

TV viewers deny the onset of charity fatigue

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

TWO thirds of the public believes that television fundraising events are a good way of raising cash for charities, according to a MORI poll published today.

The findings contradict a growing assumption that "compassion fatigue" has set in among viewers, that they have grown weary of reaching into their pockets for highly publicised and seemingly endless charity appeals. Commissioned by the charity Comic Relief, the poll shows that 66 per cent of adults in Britain supported its Red Nose Day, a six-hour "laughathon" broadcast on BBC1 in March.

The poll will be read with interest by the independent television companies, which this month decided to cancel their biennial 24-hour fundraising appeal, the Telethon, on the grounds that donations were falling and the event was becoming unpopular.

The survey also provides the first independent evidence that "telethons" have a positive impact on charitable giving overall. Seven million people say they gave money to other charities as a direct result of publicity surrounding the Red Nose appeal.

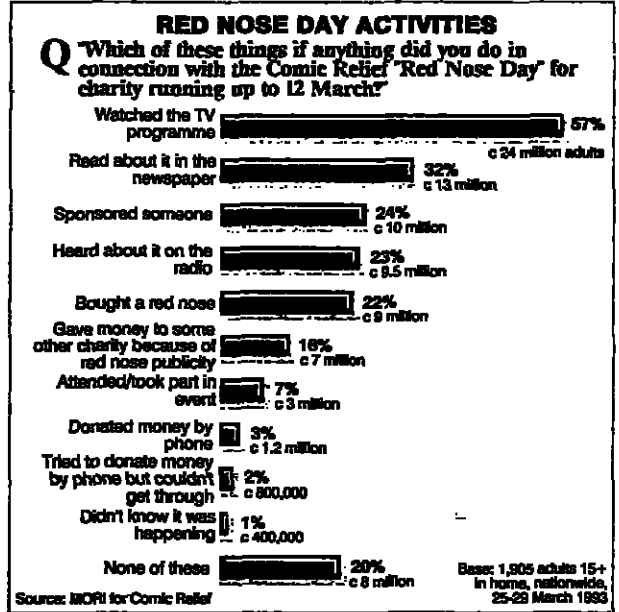
Kevin Cahill, Comic Re-

lie's director of communications, said that the findings showed the event was succeeding in raising awareness. More than 100,000 fund-raising initiatives were organised by members of the public for Red Nose Day this year, compared with 80,000 the last time it was organised in 1991.

Hosted by comedians such as Lenny Henry and Griff Rhys Jones, the appeal encourages viewers to donate money over the telephone or to raise cash from sponsored events with a comic theme. Two thirds of the funds collected go to aid projects in Africa and the remainder to charities in the UK.

According to the MORI poll, 57 per cent of people questioned — representing 24 million adults — watched all or some of this year's programme. More than nine million people paid 60p for a plastic red nose and ten million, or one in four of the adult population, contributed sponsorship money. The survey was based on interviews with 1,905 adults throughout the country in March.

Although more people have made direct contributions this year the total raised is down — £16.5 million so far, compared with £18 million in 1991.



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For the left Brian Crozier was a bogeyman, but he had the ear of Margaret Thatcher

Freelance who was KGB's enemy no 1

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

BRIAN Crozier, journalist, author, free-wheeling intelligence operator and scourge of the left, has had an extraordinary career. As well as interviewing more heads of state than anyone in history, according to *The Guinness Book of Records*, and writing biographies of Franco and Gorbachev, he has played a leading, covert part in undermining many KGB-manipulated and financed "peace" campaigns.

With contacts in MI6, he has worked as a consultant to the American CIA and for a counter-subversion organisation run by the Foreign Office, the Information Research Department, which was scrapped in 1977. He had dealings, too, with the secret services of many other countries, including France, Israel, Argentina, Chile and Taiwan.

With the information he gleaned from his huge network of contacts, he gained

■ The book *Free Agent*, Brian Crozier's account of his exciting and influential career, is causing a stir in the intelligence world

access to Margaret Thatcher at Downing Street and Chequers, to President Reagan in the White House, to William Casey when he was director of the CIA and to many other leading figures.

His main concern was countering the secret war "for people's minds" waged by Soviet agents of influence, Communist front organisations and the KGB's dirty tricks department. Such was his energy, influence and political adroitness that Mr Crozier became a bogeyman to the left wing, a man they considered obsessed with subversives under the bed. The KGB, he discovered, regarded him as Public Enemy No 1.

In spite of his image among the left as a political activist in the pay of the CIA, his warnings were listened to by

Western leaders and often accurate. His influence was probably at its greatest during the period immediately before and after Baroness Thatcher became prime minister. He was one of her unofficial advisers, described by the late Charles Douglas-Home, former editor of *The Times*, as "her Downing Street irregular".

Mr Crozier and a small group of like-minded people, who were convinced that subversive elements posed a serious danger to the realm, decided to do something about it. Sir Stephen Hastings, then Tory MP for Mid-Bedfordshire, and with a distinguished war record including service with the SAS, suggested setting up a secret advisory committee to brief Mrs Thatcher on security and intel-



All the presidents' man: Brian Crozier advised US leaders including Ronald Reagan

ligence matters. This was born the Shield Committee.

In another more adventurous campaign, whose sphere of influence spread to many countries including South America and Iran, Mr Crozier formed a covert operational group, acting as a private intelligence service. Among its successes was the planting of moles in the Militant Tendency and the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.

Like many converts to the anti-Communist cause, Brian Crozier was a leftwinger while a young man. He was born in Queensland, Australia, in 1918

and came to England at the age of five. In his twenties, he read a book about the horrors of the Stalin era which convinced him that he was espousing the wrong cause, although it was not until 1958 that he became a political activist.

He admits he has had a "pretty rough time" from sections of the press, culminating in what he says was a KGB-inspired smear campaign against him in several newspapers in the late 1970s. "The trouble is, I have far more enemies than friends," he said. "But I think I succeeded in

getting my views across, particularly with Mrs Thatcher. She was very earnest about it and became very friendly."

In March last year, he attended a conference in Washington organised by Richard Nixon, the former president. At dinner, attended by George Bush, the president, he was invited to join the presidential table and during a speech Mr Bush made a reference to "our friend Brian Crozier". His influence, clearly, was not confined to London.

Secret shield, page 12

THE TIMES WORLD CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

By RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

HOW to beat Garry Kasparov? In the following game from the recent French Team Championship the Hungarian Grandmaster Pinter gradually surrounds Kasparov and restricts his options for active counterplay. Kasparov finds that sort of sterility poisonous. After 57 moves White has a winning position, but can he win?

White: Josef Pinter
Black: Garry Kasparov
French League, Auzerre 1993
Modern Benoni Defence

1	d4	Nf6
2	c4	g6
3	Nc3	Bg7
4	e4	d6
5	Bd3	0-0
6	Nge2	c5
7	0-0	0-0
8	0-0	0-0
9	0-0	0-0
10	h3	Nd7
11	Ng3	a6
12	a4	Rb8
13	a5	h5
14	Bg5	b5
15	axb6	Qxb6
16	Ra2	Nb5
17	Ba2	Nd7
18	Ba3	h4
19	Nh1	g5
20	Qd2	Qd8
21	Qc2	Nf6
22	Qb1	Bb6
23	h4	Nf6
24	Nf2	Rb8
25	Rd1	Nf4
26	Bf1	Nf5
27	Qc2	Ng3
28	h5	Re7
29	Nb1	Ng6
30	Nc2	Nf4
31	Nc4	Rc5
32	Nc3	Ng6
33	Ra3	Rc7
34	Qd2	Rb8
35	a6	0-0
36	0-0	Rc8
37	Nc5	Bb6
38	Qc5	Rc5
39	Qc5	0-0
40	h6	Ba4
41	Qc7	Nf4
42	Qc8+	Bd8
43	Bx4	g4
44	Bd3	Bd7
45	Re1	Bb6
46	d7	Bc6
47	Re8+	Ra8
48	0-0-0	Ba8
49	Ra6	Bd4+
50	Nf2	Bb6
51	Ra6	Bb6
52	Ra8+	Kg7
53	d4	h5
54	Qb8	Ba4
55	Nd2	Kf6
56	Ra8	Bd7
57	b5	

to be continued



Diagram for final position

1. I will give the remaining moves tomorrow. Don't miss tomorrow's Times to see whether Pinter could convert his advantage into a win.

Readers game

I have been inundated with games from readers. If you have played a fine game send it to me c/o Championship Chess, The Times, 1 Pennington St, London E1 9XN for possible inclusion in this column. Times reader Frank Hatto from Llanelli scored the following victory in a recent club match.

White: D. Guy

Black: F. Hatto

Knights v Abbots 1993

French Defence

1	e4	e6
2	d4	d5
3	Nc3	Bd6
4	e5	c5
5	a3	c5+
6	bxc3	Ne7
7	Qg4	Qc7
8	Qg7	Rg8
9	Qd7	0-0
10	Bb5+	Bd7
11	Ba7+	Ne7
12	Nd2	0-0
13	Rd1	0-0
14	h4	Rg2
15	Rb3	Nf5
16	Qb3	Ra2+
17	Ka2	Nd4+
18	Kf1	Nb3
19	0-0	d4
20	Qc3	Nc5
21	Qc4	Qc6
22	Rf1	b5
23	Qd4	c2+
24	Kd2	Qd4+
25	Kd2	Qd2+

White resigns

Championship update

The Savoy Hotel and Simpsons-in-the-Strand, Britain's traditional home of chess have together devised a series of corporate and individual programmes combining fine dining and... tickets to the championship. Call the Savoy Group Priority line on 071 372 3080.

Winning Move, page 44

Kent recaptures county chess title

By IAN MURRAY

KENT beat Essex to become chess county champion at the weekend in one of the closest finals in the long history of the British title. After 16 games the two sides were tied at eight points each, so the title hung on which county won the last game on the higher board. Kent won by one point.

The team recaptured the massive county chess trophy, shaped like a large chess piece, which is so heavy it takes two players to lift it. Although the competition has no sponsor, the trophy is one of the most valuable in British sport and emerges from safekeeping only once a year for the championship, held in Edgbaston, Birmingham.

Kent has dominated the championship in recent years, winning the title in 1991 and on three occasions during the

1980s. Kent won this year even though a couple of its best players were unavailable, including Luke McShane, the nine-year-old international master. The Essex team had the youngest winner of the day, 11-year-old Karl Mah, who played bottom board and won his game.

Another young player who performed well was Ruth Sheldon, 13, from Greater Manchester, who played in the second team finals, drawing her match and helping to crush the higher-rated Middlesex side by ten points to 6. The third team event was won by Middlesex, which defeated Cambridge, while Hertfordshire beat Lancashire in the fourth team competition. The minor counties title was won by Oxfordshire, beating Bedfordshire by ten points to six.

Man beaten for trying to stop brawl

By JENNY KNIGHT

A STUDENT was left critically ill when he was viciously attacked after trying to act as peacemaker during a brawl in Brighton, Sussex.

Lee Goddard, 21, an architecture student at Brighton University, who was with friends celebrating the end of their degree course, tried to intervene in a fight near the town's Theatre Royal early yesterday. He was knocked to the ground and kicked.

Goddard was taken to the Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton, but later transferred to Southampton General for emergency brain surgery. Last night his parents, Jan and Graham Goddard, from Godmanchester, Cambridgeshire, were at his bedside.

His mother said: "He is a lovely boy and it is so like him to try to help someone in trouble. We are all shocked by what has happened."

Police were questioning two people last night. Further enquiries were being made.

Coma birth baby likely to survive

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

DOCTORS believe Melanie Douglas, 19, who has been in a partial coma for six months, understands that she is now a mother.

Unable to speak, she can communicate only through facial movements and has been gradually recovering consciousness in Moseley Hall Hospital, Birmingham, after a road accident. Doctors fear that she suffered permanent brain damage.

On Friday she was taken to Birmingham Maternity Hospital with internal bleeding and doctors delivered a 4lb 7oz baby girl by Caesarean section.

She had been 30 weeks pregnant but had not known at the time of the accident that she was expecting a baby.

Doctors said yesterday that the baby, which was being kept in an incubator, had a good chance of survival. Ms Douglas, from Castle Vale, Birmingham, appears not to have suffered any ill effects from the birth operation.

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YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

Stewart Tendler and Jamie Dettmer on the rule of the gun in London's underworld

Trigger-happy pushers oust old-style gangs

Police appear to be losing the fight against organised crime in the capital as violence spreads and witnesses back down

James Alfred Moody was at the bar quietly enjoying a half-pint of bitter in the Royal Hotel, Hackney, an old-fashioned public house in London's East End one mid-week evening a month ago. Known to the staff as Mick, he had become a regular in recent weeks.

The bar was almost deserted and Moody was perfectly at ease. Thirteen years after escaping from Brixton prison with Gerard Tuite, an IRA suspect, Moody had survived in the London underworld unscathed by either police or other criminals despite a reputation as a gunman.

Moody took little notice when a man in his early 40s dressed in a leather jacket sauntered through the bar to the toilets. A moment later he reappeared. The quiet was shattered as he turned on Moody and fired three shots into his chest from a .38 revolver.

As Moody's 17-stone body slumped to the floor, the gunman fired again, this time into his back. The killer stared at the body for a second, strode out and sped away in a car. A month after the shooting, detectives are no nearer to discovering the identity of the killer.

Was Moody's death a tit-for-tat gangland killing that has its origins in a murder almost two years earlier in southeast London? Was Moody struck down on the orders of a cuckolded husband? Or was his death, as underworld gossip suggests, the result of treachery involving drugs deals and a powerful gang? The police questions just bounce off a wall of East End silence.

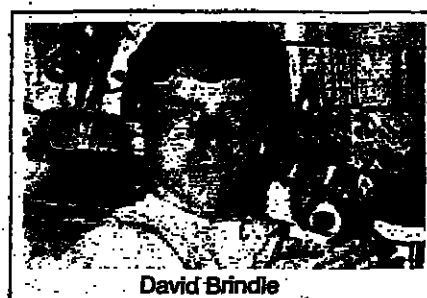
Since 1989 there has been a steady toll of such killings. In the East End, there have been seven murders and 11 attempted murders in the past year linked by detectives to gangland. The Moody "topping" or

"popping", underworld terms for an assassination, is just one of dozens of unsolved murders and shootings in London and the Home Counties in the past few years.

Who shot David Brindle in a public house in Walworth, south London, in August 1991? Was Moody one of the two masked men who burst into the Bell and sprayed the lounge bar with revolver and automatic gunfire? Who shot "Mad" Frankie Fraser, like Moody a former enforcer in the Richardson's torture gang of the sixties, a few weeks later outside Turzills night-club in Clerkenwell? Fraser, aged 68 but still as hard as the south London back streets that bred him, survived. When interviewed by police in hospital, he gave his name as Tutan.

khazum, rhyming slang for "keeping mum". He claimed his injuries were caused by a fall. There are few signs that the streets of Bermondsey, Southwark, Rotherhithe, Hackney or Canning Town are suddenly going to throw up informers prepared to witness to gangland crime. In one south London shooting two years ago, the wounded man refused to let doctors give police bullets taken from his body.

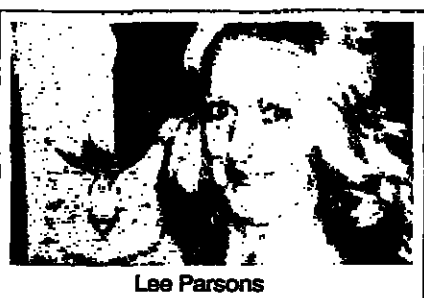
Even if police manage to mount a prosecution, potential witnesses are often terrified into silence after a visit from the "hard men". Detectives are familiar with witnesses who side up at committal proceedings and say they have changed their minds, saw nothing, heard nothing and can't please go home. "There are gangsters who are above the law," says a Crown Prosecution Service solicitor working in south London. "Witnesses disappear in a puff of threats." Old-timers drinking in the tatty pubs along the Old Kent Road bottle up the



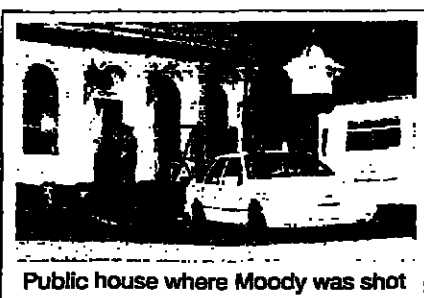
David Brindle



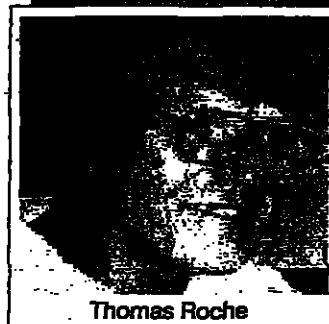
Terry Gooderham and Maxine Arnold



Lee Parsons



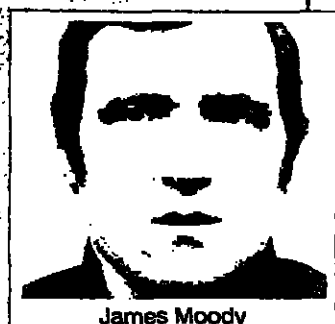
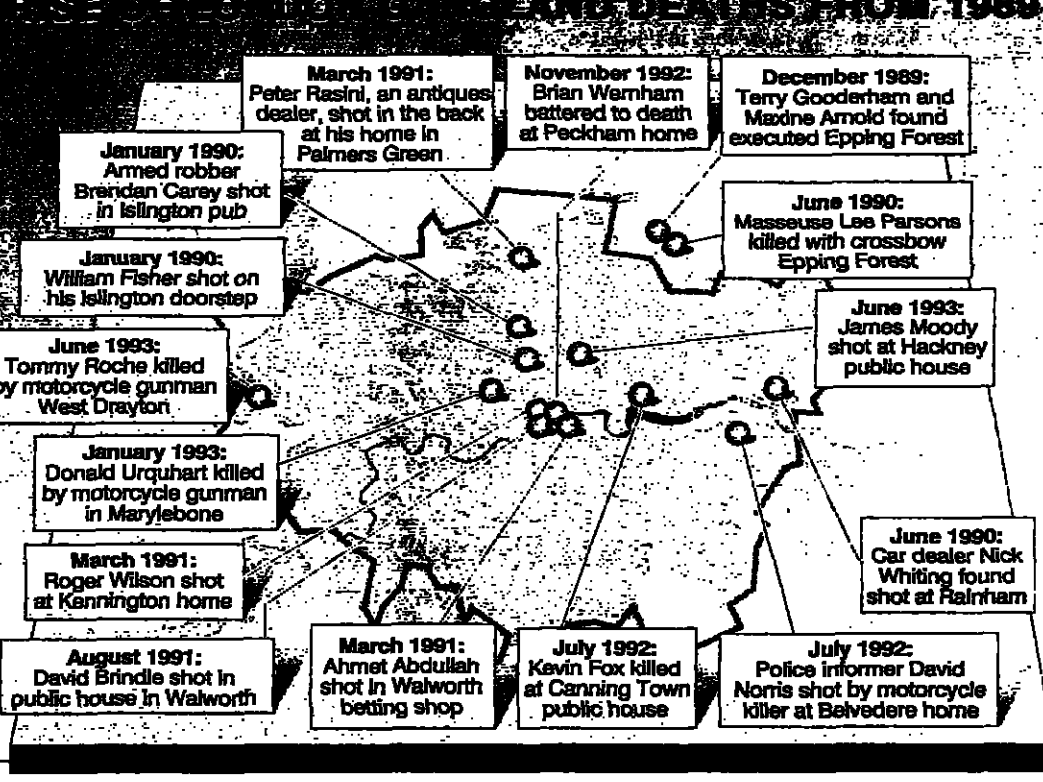
Public house where Moody was shot



Thomas Roche



Donald Urquhart



James Moody



Nick Whiting

'However hard we try, we just cannot get them. Witnesses disappear in a puff of threats'

moment conversation turns to questions about who is running, or trying to run, the southeast London "manor". The nicest reply you are likely to get is a muttered, "fings ain't what they used to be".

Two factors have reshaped gangland and encouraged the growing number of killings. First, the brutal discipline the Krays and Richardson's brought to the London underworld for a brief few years in the 1960s has long gone. But it would be a mistake to believe that old-style family mobs are a thing of the past. Dozens of 1960s "families" are still active.

Family names that resounded in south and east London back when Harold Wilson was prime minister still cause a ripple around a pub bar when mentioned today. New family names have joined the

list but many of them are connected by marriage with the old criminal dynasties. As John Smith, deputy commissioner at Scotland Yard, said there are no "Mr Bigs" in London but plenty of "Mr Big Enoughts".

Police estimate there are 15 to 20 top-drawer criminals operating in London, often from behind legitimate businesses and acting like successful entrepreneurs, among a population of some 600 serious criminals. The top echelon includes men with few, if any, convictions. Others have learnt the value of discretion after earlier convictions and keep out of sight. In the 1960s, gangland made its money from blagging (armed robberies), protection rackets, vice, fraud and the sale of illicit liquor and stolen cigarettes.

The Krays' interests reached into the West End alongside the Maltese gangs who were strong in Soho.

Times have changed. Prostitution has moved from the tightly tied flats and clubs of the 1960s Soho. Many prostitutes now operate on the streets in King's Cross, Bayswater and parts of south London with the protection of black criminals.

The pattern of armed robberies has also changed. The days of the big combines which came together for the Great Train robbery, the £6 million Security Express heist and the £26 million Brink's-Mat raid in the 1980s may well be over. Security companies have improved protection for money in transit, the police target suspected robbery teams and have trapped a number of groups in armed ambushes in which five rob-

bers have been killed. The second factor which has redrawn the London gangland map is drugs. "The old robbery teams are in their fifties and sixties now. If you are 50 and you have done your time in prison and want to make money without risk, you turn to drugs," a senior north London detective said.

Customs and Excise estimates that the drugs trade in Britain is worth £3 billion a year. A thriving market has grown not only in cannabis but in cocaine and its crack derivative, in heroin and a series of recreational drugs, such as ecstasy, tied to youth culture. Links have been built up between London mobs and the exiled criminals now living in Spain, a gateway for cocaine and cannabis into Europe. Much of the crack is con-

trolled by black gangs and their networks built loosely round the Jamaican-based Yardies, who have connections with the Colombians and the American drugs markets. Cannabis is traded by black, white and Asian groups. Heroin is dealt by Asians, white groups and Turks. Cocaine is often traded by whites, who also dominate the synthetic drug trade.

The competition for a slice of this business is being fought out in pubs and clubs. It is the squalid struggle for control of drugs distribution that accounts for many of the high profile killings. The rewards are high but so are the risks. "It's an unstable, paranoid world," said a Yard specialist in criminal intelligence and the drug world. "There is a lot of thieving and violence and treachery."

The battle-lines between the mobs are not as static as they were when the Krays and Richardson's knew the exact boundaries of their turf. At times families will come together to do a big job. But feuds can be triggered easily: a falling out over the division of profits, a missing package of drugs, failure to pay up on time or rivalry over a girl. Aware that the police rely heavily on informants, criminals are swift to punish "grassers". Three killings in the past two years are believed to be due to retribution against informers.

TOMORROW

The Times looks at two of Britain's most violent cities

'Manors' see the return of families at war

London crime has returned to its old haunts

ALONG the three-mile stretch south of the Thames between Woolwich and Tower Bridge lies an area of sprawling council estates and rundown, narrow terraced streets which has a criminal history stretching back to Tudor times. The name that strikes most fear in this "manor" is Arif. Nicknamed by some "the kings of the Old Kent Road", the seven Arif brothers own a string of night-clubs, pubs, restaurants and jewellers. The family were originally from Turkish Cyprus and came to England in the 1950s.

Two of the brothers, Dennis and Mehmet, were sentenced to 22 years and 18 years respectively for an armed ambush on a Securix van in Reigate in 1990 that led to a shoot-out with the police in which one gang member, Kenny Baker, was killed. The brothers now run B Wing at Parkhurst prison in much the same way that Ronnie and Reggie Kray did. The head of the family, Dogan, is still believed to organise some members of the Arif family from his cell, where he is nearing the end of a sentence for his part in an £8.5 million cannabis smuggling plot.

The high underworld profile enjoyed by the Arifs is based on a history of spectacular robberies, arrests, convictions and acquittals. Dogan Arif's profile was raised even higher when he was acquitted in 1983 of taking part in a bogus arms deal aimed at swindling Iran out of £34 million. "Even the ayatollahs don't frighten Dogan," was the word down the Old Kent Road. He once bought himself a football team, non-league Fisher Athletic, and poured over £500,000 into the club in an effort to take it into the professional divisions.

A family wedding reception in 1990 testified to the high esteem in which the Arifs are held, or at least the fear they can inspire. The guest list for the reception read like a Who's Who of London crime: convicted members of the Coleman, Fraser, White and Hiscock



Shoot-out: aftermath of the Arif-led security van ambush near Reigate. The sheet on the forecourt covers a body

families were present. The Arifs are related by marriage to the Coleman family.

When Dennis and Mehmet Arif were sentenced for the Reigate raid, the judge spoke of them in terms reminiscent of the Krays: "You are each dangerous, ruthless, greedy and clever men from whom society must be protected." The Crown prosecutor, who secured 24-hour security for the jury during the case, described the brothers in crime as coming from a "family of considerable power and influence in terms of money and muscle".

Much lower down the pecking order, there are rough-house members of families like the Brindles, an old clan which was generally more on the periphery of events, until David Brindle was shot in The Bell, Walworth, in 1991. The Brindle shooting electrified south London.

The family can trace its history in the area back to Tommy "Tom Thumb" Brindle, who was well-known in Bermondsey during the 1940s as a small-time crook, black marketeer and street book-maker. In the immediate post-war years, the Brindles pursued several feuds with other families in the area; none was as heavily fought as

the one with the Frasers. However, intermarriage brought the Brindles and Frasers into a tense alliance. Tommy's brother married "Mad" Frankie Fraser's sister. Patrick and Tony Brindle, David's brothers, were acquitted in 1991 of the murder of Ahmet "Abbi" Abdullah, a cousin of the Arifs, who was beaten and shot in a betting shop in Walworth.

According to some police sources, southeast London is like a tinderbox.

IN north London, another close-knit family of several brothers wields wide territorial power through ownership of clubs and spicers (illegal gambling dens), one in the Hatton Garden area and another close to Paddington station.

They are believed by police to have been involved in armed robberies and drugs deals. Only one member of the family has been convicted of an offence. For legal reasons, they cannot be named. They are believed by underworld sources to be people you "don't mix it with unless you want a hole in your head".

Like Dogan Arif, they have

an interest in football but have been aiming higher than a non-league side. They were rumoured to be behind an offer for a major professional club several years ago.

Police say there are times when the family members seem almost non-active but then suddenly they are flush with money.

The gang has been involved in rivalry with another group in the area, which several years ago led to a series of shooting incidents across London.

Although north London has never attracted the sort of publicity generated by south-east and east London criminals, the area has always been a home to top-level armed robbers and thieves.

Another new gang involved with drug trafficking is said by police to be growing in the area and developing gangland alliances. Investigators have also looked at the operations of Turkish gangs within the large Turkish immigrant community and links to heroin smuggling.

But throughout north London and other areas of the capital, the criminal network of gangland fluctuates constantly. The Yardies, a much-publicised and loose-knit black group linked to crack

trading and guns, were first identified in southwest London, around Brixton. Now the Yardie phenomenon has been traced to parts of east and north London.

Four murders and eight attempted murders this year have been laid at the door of Yardie violence. Guns are used to defend territory between groups or simply to avenge insults.

THE East End has always been a home to gangland, nurturing and fuelling the careers of the Krays. Many of the criminals from the heyday of the twins are still living in the area but there is no longer any ruling influence.

According to Det Supt Mike Craik, a senior murder investigator in the East End, it has informal networks of individuals and groups. Geography also plays a part. Canning Town, part of Docklands, is the centre of one criminal fraternity; another network operates in Barking. Others gather in pubs and clubs in Stratford and further west in Stepney and Bow. The groups are based on the areas where members grew up, went to school together and retained

links. There may be common interests, such as former membership of the violent football supporters' gangs which followed London clubs.

Drugs have changed gang operations in the East End, as they have in other parts of London, although protection and extortion still remain sources of money, with theft as another solid earner.

Up to a dozen groups specialise in lorry hijacks on main roads east out of London and in parts of the south. When lorry drivers pull up at traffic lights, a gunman climbs into the cab, or the drivers are fooled into delivering their loads into the hands of the gangs. The thieves work with other loose-knit groups of criminal businessmen who deal with the "slaughter" — the disposal of loot.

It is still a violent world, where a word out of order or double dealing will bring a swift response. A dispute over a few hundred pounds, or an insult, used to lead to a fight; now it leads to a shooting. One detective said: "It becomes a case of giving them four rounds of rapid fire for pulling a stunt." Rivalries between groups also cause violence and once the Canning Town and Stratford groups clashed.

In a case still under investigation, a man was killed with machetes and knives in a particularly savage attack. It was said to have been in retribution for an attack on a young member of an old-established East End family.

A handful of men at the top of the pile have made enough to get out and have moved to homes in Essex — Chigwell is a favoured area — and Kent. But they still come back to the East End to socialise. They include men with legitimate businesses such as property who have distanced themselves from day-to-day crime but sometimes dip into criminal enterprises.

Others live uncomfortable lives in East End council homes without any apparent source of income, although detectives who arrest them may find they are carrying £5,000 to £10,000 in cash, often from drug deals.

"There are the top people and then there are the people we find dead in a pub," Mr Craik said.

Beaten and shot in busy pub, but no witnesses found

A YEAR after Kevin Fox died in one of the bloodiest gangland killings in London, the police file is effectively closed. Forty people were arrested, three guns recovered and one man convicted for attempting to pervert the course of justice, but nobody has been tried for murder.

Fox, a 41-year-old former scrappyard owner, was beaten over the head with a fire extinguisher and shot twice at a public house at Canning Town, east London, last July. Two other people were wounded. Nobody admitted seeing the crime or knowing anything about it.

The death of Fox is a classic, if particularly brutal, example of the violent world of London's gangland and the difficulty that police have in penetrating its defences. The trouble began when Fox was drinking in the Memory Lane pub. He was from neighbouring Barking and was a known criminal. About 15 people were in the pub when an argument broke out over money for the use of a telephone.

Fox was thrown out but returned carrying a gun. He fired seven shots, seriously wounding the landlord's son and injuring another man, before he was overwhelmed by a mob. He was shot with his own gun, hit with the fire extinguisher and a billiard cue and thrown into the street, where he was killed by drinkers as they left.

Police investigated the murder for 23 weeks, at a cost of £40,000 in overtime alone, and came up against almost total silence. Fox's weapon was never found, although officers recovered three other guns, drugs and stolen property during their hunt for clues.

A man was charged with murder after his fingerprint was found on the bloody fire extinguisher, but the charge was dropped because Fox died from being shot rather

Why the police have been unable to crack the silent world of the gang bosses and stop their evil henchmen

than being beaten. The man was prosecuted for attempting to pervert the course of justice, as he had told police that he was not in the pub at the time of the killing, and received a two-year suspended sentence. Another man was fined £1,500 for possessing a sawn-off shotgun.

Det Supt Michael Craik, the senior investigator, said the murder was a typical example of what goes on. "A falling-out of thieves is not an inaccurate description, although so many injuries are unusual. We don't make the front pages of local papers here when someone is shot."

The Fox murder is only one more in a long line of unsolved killings connected with London's gangland which began to take place in 1989.

Terry Gooderham, a pub stocktaker, and his girl friend Maxine Arnold were driven to a clearing in Epping Forest and killed. Lee Parsons, a masseuse, was killed with a crossbow and his body left in the forest.

Nick Whiting, a car dealer, was kidnapped in 1991 and found bound and shot on the Essex marshes. Brian Wernham, licensee of a pub called World Turned Upside Down, was found beaten to death last November.

In early 1990, William Fisher was killed on his doorstep by gunmen on a motorcycle.

Recent victims of this increasingly frequent style of execution include Donald Urquhart and, earlier this month, the road workman Tommy Roche.

White militants defy police as raiders remain at large

FROM RAY KENNEDY
IN JOHANNESBURG

MILITANT right-wingers maintained their mocking defiance of the South African government at the weekend and challenged the police to try to arrest them. On Friday, the police stood by and watched their violent attack on the World Trade Centre, venue of the multiparty constitutional negotiations.

Despite President de Klerk's pledge that arrests would begin almost immediately, the police have said they are having difficulty identifying the perpetrators. Major Ruben Bloomberg, of the police headquarters in Pretoria, said many of the people involved gave false names and addresses and vehicles had false registration plates, including the seized armoured security van used to smash through the plate-glass doors of the centre.

Five photographs of gun-wielding Afrikaner Resistance Movement (AWB) members, including a blonde woman in her twenties with a shotgun, have been issued by the police. They were taken from video

■ As the hunt for the ringleaders of last week's attack falters, Nelson Mandela has called for a day of protest and the right could become isolated in the democracy talks

film of the three-hour rampage by hundreds of heavily armed extremists.

Before leaving for Cairo on Saturday night to attend a meeting of the Organisation of African Unity, Nelson Mandela, president of the African National Congress, said that he had asked President de Klerk what action would be taken against Eugene Terre-Blanche, the AWB leader, Ferdi Hartzenberg, the Conservative Party leader, and General Constand Viljoen, of the Afrikaner Volksfront.

He said he had been told that the police would require sufficient evidence to secure conviction before taking action. Major Bloomberg said last night: "Certain people were allowed inside the negotiation chamber to present a memorandum."

In the western Transvaal town of Ventersdorp, head-

quarters of the AWB, local police officers said that they had no instructions to arrest anybody. An AWB spokesman said: "If they dare to arrest the leader (Mr Terre-Blanche) or any of our generals, there will be bloodshed in the country."

It was still not clear if President de Klerk will postpone a visit to America where he and Mr Mandela are due to receive liberty awards from President Clinton at a ceremony in Philadelphia on July 4, American Independence Day. Mr de Klerk was due to fly to Austria on Saturday night, but spent the afternoon in Durban watching rugby.

He has said the situation could develop into a national crisis and the ANC has declared Thursday a day of national action in defence of democracy to be marked by marches, boycotts and pickets. There is increasing agree-

ment that the attack on the World Trade Centre could isolate the right wing in the constitutional negotiations from its partners in the Concerned South Africans Group, which for the past two months has delayed ratification of the election date, provisionally set for April 27 next year, and installation of a transitional executive council to work alongside the cabinet.

Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, leader of the mainly Zulu Inkatha Freedom Party, who held nine hours of reconciliation talks last week with Mr Mandela, indicated at the weekend that he was considering pulling out of the alliance because of the attack. If Inkatha goes, the KwaZulu government delegation will certainly join it and most probably the Ciskei, too.

□ Township deaths: Twelve people were shot dead by unidentified gunmen in the black township of Sebokeng in the volatile Vaal Triangle, south of Johannesburg, on Saturday night. Witnesses said four men in a car drove through the town firing on pedestrians for no apparent reason.



Going home: Albanian illegal immigrants in a Greek police van in Piraeus yesterday. They were among 4,500 Albanians arrested for expulsion, apparently in reprisal for Albania's expulsion of a Greek Orthodox priest

Local polls blow puts Japanese leaders on edge

FROM EUGENE MOOSA IN TOKYO

JAPAN'S ruling Liberal Democratic Party, affected by mass defections, a leadership crisis and corruption, headed for a setback in Tokyo city elections last night, according to television projections. Its performance could set a trend for the general election on July 18, when the party faces the most serious challenge yet to its 39-year rule.

NHK television said the LDP won only 21 of 65 seats decided so far for the 128-seat council. The station reported that the party was struggling to maintain its present strength of 42 seats in the capital's assembly. The centrist Buddhist-backed Komeito has won 18 seats so far, followed by ten for the rising Japan New Party. NHK added. The main opposition Socialists also suffered, winning only four seats so far. The Communists had six seats. There were five independents and one from a minor party. Turnout was a record low of 51.43 per cent.

Throughout the nine-day campaign LDP candidates fought a rearguard action to offset troubles in parliament, with many erasing the LDP name from their banners and posters. Not once did Kichiro Miyazawa, the embattled prime minister, campaign in the streets on behalf of his party candidates. His spokesman said he was in the middle of an intensive briefing in preparation for the Tokyo summit of the Group of Seven leaders on July 7-9.

Yesterday the largest group of LDP defectors, led by Tsutomu Hata, the former fi-

nance minister, held coalition talks with chiefs of the four established non-communist opposition parties. They agreed to seek a liberal coalition government after July 18 that would inherit the LDP's basic foreign and defence policies and enact sweeping reforms to cleanse corrupt politics.

"We aim to form a new government that will be wholly trusted by the people," Mr Hata told a news conference after the meeting with the leaders of the Socialists, the Komeito, the Democratic Socialist Party and the tiny Socialist Democratic Federation. "We will carry on the main foreign and defence policies of the current government," Mr Hata, who aims to field about 70 candidates in the elections for the 511-member lower house, added.

Morihiro Hosokawa, leader of the Japan New Party, said that he would stay away from "premature" talks about future coalitions. (Reuters)



Miyazawa: stayed out of Tokyo campaign

US Customs targets heroin swallowers

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

AT MIAMI airport, American Customs inspectors are fighting an ugly new trend in the war on drugs: pellets of high-grade Colombian heroin swallowed by smugglers who arrive daily on flights from Latin America.

"You're talking an army of ants," said Tom Roland, a veteran customs officer who heads a team battling to stem the flow at the airport. Because of the vast profits to be made from small amounts of heroin, the drug is replacing cocaine as the easiest choice for traffickers working with the co-operation of passengers prepared to take the appalling risks.

Passenger "mules" arrested at Miami have been found to have swallowed up to 200 of the thumb-size, machine-made latex pellets that cause instant death if they break open in the stomach. Heroin sells for about \$100,000 (£67,500) a pound, with swallowers paid about 5 per cent of its value.

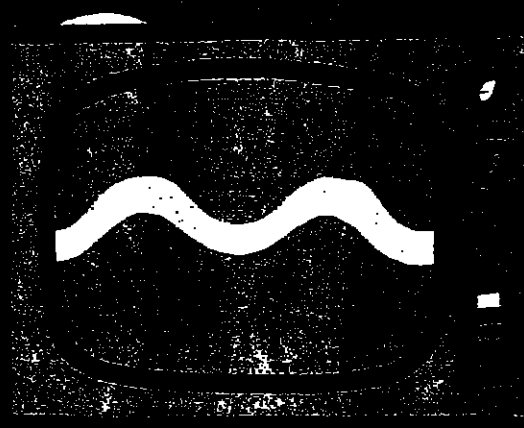
Miami, which handled 6.1 million passengers last year, is US Customs' second biggest airport operation and the most used entry point for drugs in the country. "Simple geography makes this airport a nightmare," said Mr Roland as he detailed the number of daily flights from drug-producing cities in Colombia, such as Medellin and Cali.

Almost every day a flight carries drug smugglers, many of whom probably escape detection. "We can't catch everybody," Mr Roland said. However, using complex computer technology and fine-tuned psychological and physiological tests, customs officers claim a high rate of success.

Inspectors look for sweaty hands, heaving chests and a fluttering around the carotid artery under the Adam's apple. If after questioning suspicion persists, passengers are escorted to Jackson Memorial Hospital, six miles away, for stomach X-rays. The number of heroin swallowers detained at the airport has risen from three in 1991 to 116 so far this year. Almost all the swallowers are poor Colombians hoping for a big pay day.

Four swallowers died last year. One man left his wife to die in a Miami Beach hotel after a pellet burst in her stomach. Another, Ana Espinosa, was pregnant when she was arrested and found to have 157 pellets inside her. She died in hospital after one pellet split. The baby survived. Arrested with her two sons at Miami airport, Nola Buelvas said she was offered \$17,000 to swallow heroin. She took 69 pellets. Her two sons, aged 15 and 16, swallowed 135 pellets between them.

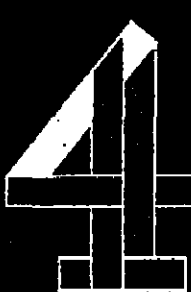
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Yeltsin profits from splits to win ground over constitution

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN MOSCOW

Boris Yeltsin is pursuing his plans for a new structure to replace the old Soviet Union. But squabbles over the ethnic republics could derail the constitutional process

PRO-YELTSIN deputies yesterday launched a counter-attack against Russian Khasbulatov, the parliamentary Speaker, after the latest attempt by conservatives to wreck Russia's constitutional assembly. More than 50 deputies accused Mr Khasbulatov of Stalinist tactics and called for him to be voted out of office.

On the eve of the latest constitutional assembly meeting this weekend, the parliamentary majority had ordered deputies to withdraw from the assembly unless President Yeltsin removed two leading officials accused of corruption. A number of defiant deputies, however, attended the meeting. President Yeltsin has refused to dismiss the men and has accused the parliamentary majority of aiming to cause a constitutional crisis.

Vladimir Shumeiko, the deputy prime minister, and Mikhail Potomkin, the information chief, both leading reformers, were accused of corruption in parliament on Thursday by Nikolai Makarov, the deputy general prosecutor, although no formal case has been filed. In recent months the general prosecutor's office has swung behind the parliamentary conservatives.

That has been seen by both Russian liberals and Western observers as a scandalous breach of legal procedure. It echoes the previous action by Viktor Stepankov, the general prosecutor, in publishing a book containing premature charges against the alleged planners of the August 1991 coup. Mr Shumeiko has said that he is suing Mr Makarov for libel.

On Saturday, Mr Yeltsin announced to the constitutional assembly that a single draft constitution has been prepared, uniting the presidential and parliamentary drafts and balancing presidential and parliamentary authority.

However, he admitted that not everything has been settled and that another meeting of the assembly will have to be held. No date for this has been set. Asked whether the new

draft formally establishes a presidential or parliamentary republic, one of its leading authors, Aleksandr Yakovlev, replied: "Life in Russia does not fall under any of the classical formulas."

The key outstanding issue, which could wreck the constitutional process and will be a vital question for Russia for the foreseeable future is that of the status of Russia's federal units. This question dominated the assembly debates on

Estonian retreat

Moscow: Estonia has suspended a law forcing Russian-speaking foreigners to take Estonian nationality, which Moscow has called "discriminatory", a presidential spokesman said yesterday. President Meri wanted an "objective professional judgment" on the law and will await the opinion of organisations such as the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe and the Council of Europe before making a decision on applying it, the spokesman said. The law, adopted last Monday, gave the 500,000 Russian speakers two years to take on Estonian citizenship. (AFP)

Saturday. Representatives of 20 autonomous republics are resisting moves to place them on an equal footing with the 68 ordinary regions.

This is being demanded both by regional leaders desirous of more power and Russian nationalists fearful that sovereignty for the ethnically based republics could lead to secession.

Aleksandr Novikov, chairman of the Siberian Krai, a regional council, opposed giving the autonomous republics sovereign status, demanding that secession should be explicitly ruled out.

and said that all federal units should be equal. In the debate at the weekend republican and regional representatives failed to reach agreement on this issue.

However, representatives of Tatarstan, the most powerful republic, continued to attend the assembly, despite an announcement by Yeltsin that he and the republic's parliamentary chairman were withdrawing from the assembly because they complained the agreed draft constitution does not guarantee Tatarstan's special status.

Nonetheless, the assembly which Mr Yeltsin initiated can so far be considered a tactical success for the president. Many issues have been settled, the atmosphere of most of the debates has been business-like and has shown a surprising degree of legal awareness, and most members have continued to attend.

In the world of the former Soviet Union, that is saying a good deal.

□ Tokyo: Russia is expected to withdraw all of the MiG 23 fighter jets it has deployed on one of the islands in the disputed Kurile chain, *Yomiuri Shimbun* reported. It quoted an international military source as saying the withdrawal from the island of Etorofu could be soon. The number of fighters on Etorofu has already been cut from 40 in 1983 to 10 by May.

Japan has long demanded the return of Etorofu and three other islands in the Kurile chain, claiming they were illegally occupied by the Soviet Union in the closing days of the second world war. The four disputed islands are just off Japan's northernmost prefecture of Hokkaido. Kichii Miyazawa, the prime minister, is expected to discuss the dispute when President Yeltsin visits Tokyo next month to meet leaders from the Group of Seven. (AFP)



Cry for freedom: a Bosnian Muslim clutching his child as others are helped off a United Nations lorry that brought them to Travnik from concentration camps after Serbs forced them from their homes. The men were tortured by Serb soldiers and used as human shields in battle

Disillusioned West begins to run out of compassion

FROM TOM RHODES IN VITEZ

AS LITTLE as two months ago tales of appalling treatment of refugees, who were evicted from their homes by Bosnian Serbs this week, would have caused at least an element of outrage in the international community. However, the horrors and atrocities that once mesmerised the outside world are too commonplace to stir much interest today.

The latest batch of 750 refugees, who claim to have been beaten, robbed and in some cases raped by Bosnian Serbs over the past 15 months, were forced to pay for their transport to the front line at Turpe and then to walk the last three miles to waiting United Nations lorries. The final gesture from the Serbs was said to have been to frighten the column of refugees further by firing over

their heads as they struggled across the line.

For Western powers concern is reserved for the safety of their own troops in Bosnia, as to an extent it should be. The sudden flurry of interest in the Commons recently when British soldiers in Vitez shot dead two members of the HVO, the Bosnian Croat militia, was indicative of just such anxiety.

It is not merely that there is a saturation point for the public in any war, and this has probably been reached in Bosnia, it is also that the West has been trying to find a solution in the wake of the Vance-Owen negotiations. With the Bosnian presidency apparently so eager to strike a deal and out its truculent President Izetbegovic, the politicians and diplomats involved in

negotiations do not want to hear that such a partition will not work.

Much of the real power, in Bosnian Muslim terms, still lies with the army, however depleted that may be. If Lord Owen, apparently eager for rapprochement under almost any terms, chooses to ignore its will to fight, then the present partition may fail as promptly as his previous plan.

Around Vitez, near the British base, Muslims and Croats have brought reinforcements into the area and conflict is expected soon. When that happens, politicians will once more emphasise the jeopardy of British troops until it quiets down, when they will probably all have signs of relief and return to other pressing political matters at home.

Bosnian Croats and Serbs celebrate unity

FROM TIM JUDAH IN BELGRADE

BOSNIAN Croats and Serbs cemented their alliance over the weekend as their military officers gathered for talks in southwestern Bosnia-Herzegovina. "The time when Croats and Serbs looked at each other through their gun sights is over," Dragan Juric, a Croat officer, said.

Meeting in Bijela, near Konjic, the Croats applauded recent Serb-Croat co-operation against the Muslims and Franciscan friars celebrated a thanksgiving Mass. "The Croatian population and army would simply have been destroyed if the Serbs had not proffered the hand of salvation," Drago Simunovic, the leader of local Croat forces, said. He added that the Serbs had helped by looking after the Croat refugees and helping with food and medical supplies. "We even got artillery help," he added.

The meeting came as Sarajevo radio claimed that Serbs and Croats were together attacking Muslims around Maglaj in central Bosnia. It also reported battles for Zepce and Zavidovici near by. President Tudjman of Croatia said 100,000 Croats in the region were under threat and "if the aggression does not stop immediately, the republic of Croatia will seriously re-examine its overall policy to Bosnia".

Today Radovan Karadzic and Mate Boban, the Bosnian Serb and Bosnian Croat leaders, are due to meet Lord Owen, the European Community peace envoy, to discuss their joint plan for the partition of Bosnia. Lord Owen has said all the protagonists in the talks accept the premise that a three-state Bosnian confederation should have one prime minister and one foreign minister.

Chalker in aid threat to Nigeria

London: Britain said yesterday it was consulting other countries about further steps against Nigeria, saying it risks losing foreign aid over the annulment of elections.

Baroness Chalker of Wallasey, the overseas development minister, said: "It is essential that we bring home to this undemocratic military government the united view that democracy and public accountability are essential."

General Ibrahim Babangida said on Saturday that new presidential elections would be held, but did not give a date and said the two previous candidates would be banned from competing. (AP)

Haiti talks

New York: Talks aimed at restoring democracy to Haiti began here with Dante Caputo, a UN mediator, shuttling between exiled President Aristide and General Raoul Cedras. (Reuters)

US troops shot

Mogadishu: Somali gunmen wounded two American soldiers, one seriously, in an ambush here while they were trying to clear a roadblock. One Somali was killed and seven were hurt. (Reuters)

Cheating claim

Tabat: Morocco's opposition parties claimed that government cheating kept them from a greater victory in the parliamentary election. Two women were elected, for Istiqlal and for the Socialist Union. (AP)

Base overrun

Sao Tomé: The Angolan rebel movement Unita said it had overrun a large military base at Dange-a-Menha, near the Cambambe hydroelectric dam that supplies power to the capital, Luanda. (Reuters)

Typhoon strikes

Manila: Typhoon Koryn caused floods and landslides that stranded thousands of people in the northern Philippines as roads and bridges collapsed. (Reuters)



Grief stricken: Richard Nixon, overcome by emotion, at his wife's funeral at the Nixon presidential library

Pat Nixon praised by evangelist

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN YORBA LINDA, CALIFORNIA

BILLY Graham, the American evangelist, paid tribute this weekend to Pat Nixon, America's former First Lady, for her courage and dignity.

"Few women in public life have suffered as she has suffered and done it with such grace," Dr Graham said at a service on Saturday. An ashen Richard Nixon, stricken with emotion, placed his hand over his mouth and cried as 250 mourners gathered at the Nixon presidential library, where Mrs Nixon was buried.

The service was attended by two other former presidents - Gerald Ford and Ronald Reagan - and several members of Congress.

Fishy deal lands football team in the bouillabaisse

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS

AROUND the Vieux Port in Marseilles they are weeping into their pastis and talking of Greek tragedy; in Paris scribes are hammering out anguished editorials on France's humiliation, and on television Bernard Tapie, the colourful millionaire-politician can be found in his familiar role proclaiming his innocence.

The cause of this convulsion is the arrest of two footballers on charges that they fixed a crucial match in favour of Olympique Marseilles (OM), the team that just won the European Cup and the French league championship.

The affair, which threatens to strip OM of its league title and demote them, started in late May when Valenciennes, a team on the depressed Franco-Belgian border, was to face Marseilles. Jacques Glassmann, a defender, said OM personnel had offered him 200,000 francs (£23,600) and a place with second division cham-

pions Martigues to help to lose the game. OM won 4-0, Valenciennes was later relegated and Marseilles laughed off the allegation. The Valenciennes police, however, said they sensed something fishier than Marseilles' famed bouillabaisse. Last week, they dug up 200,000 francs buried in the Dordogne garden of the mother of Christophe Robert, a Valenciennes striker. In the OM game, he had left the field with a mysterious injury ten minutes into play. His wife had taken delivery of the money, he told prosecutors, from officials and players at the OM hotel on the night of the match. Mme Robert was also charged with corruption.

Jean-Jacques Eydelie, an OM midfielder was arrested on Friday, and on Saturday Jean-Pierre Beres, the secretary of OM, was taken to hospital with what was first said to be a heart attack, then depression. Eric de Montgolfier, the prosecutor, said yesterday he suspected this was a "diplomatic flu".

The affair has turned the spotlight back on M Tapie, the entrepreneur and minister in the last Socialist government who has taken maximum personal credit for OM's triumph. He claims his team has been convicted in the media before any trial. "It's a lynching with shovels full of manure," he said.

Last year, fraud charges against him were dropped in an affair involving the Toshiba company. He has also had frequent brushes with the law, including a fraud squad investigation last year into OM finances. M Tapie paid an unrequested visit to the prosecutor on Thursday but failed to change his views.

Meanwhile, editorials lament the damage to French dignity. "At stake is the very spirit of the sport, the famous 'fair play' exported by the British more than a century ago," *Le Figaro* said.

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The inside account of an intelligence operation, rivalling MI-5 and reporting direct to Mrs Thatcher

A secret shield for the Lady



Brian Crozier, veteran scourge of left-wing militants and security chiefs, helped to form Mrs Thatcher's vision of a new Britain. In this first extract from the Cold War memoir that Number 10 tried to stop, he describes their semi-official campaign against the hard Left

The lady took notes when I first met her. I found this flattering. I was also surprised, as we were in the middle of dinner in excellent company when she produced her notebook. I soon learnt that her appetite for facts and views was inexhaustible, as was her energy. Both qualities would in time serve her country. That evening, Tuesday, March 9, 1976, they served the legitimate ambitions of the first woman Leader of Her Majesty's Opposition, elected to that post by an overwhelming majority of Tory MPs, just over a year before.

Our host was Bill De Lisle [the late Viscount De Lisle, holder of the VC and president of what is now called the Freedom Association] who, with Norris McWhirter, also present, had been urging Margaret Thatcher to meet me for some time. I needed no urging. The other guests on that memorable occasion in Lord De Lisle's London residence in Eaton Place were John Couriel [right-wing activist and businessman] and Robert Moss [writer and author]. Apart from the guest of honour, all of us that evening were founder members of the Freedom Association.

Mrs Thatcher was listening and writing because I was telling her things nobody had yet mentioned to her, about Soviet subversion in the United Kingdom and worldwide, about the penetration of our trades unions and of the Labour Party, still in power at that time. All her experience so far had been in the adversarial give-and-take world of party politics, in the House of Commons. Her experience of the outside world, of foreign affairs, of secret intelligence and security, was virtually nil.

Gouriel saw us as her "liege men". My view was less romantic. I thought it vitally important that she should be extensively briefed on these matters before she became Prime Minister. None of us present that evening doubted that she had it in her to win. We were determined to make sure she did, and we wanted her to be well prepared for the greatest problem she would face on reaching 10 Downing Street.

On leaving, we shook hands and she invited me to see her from time to time to continue our conversation. Thereafter we had many meetings, either at the Thatchers' London home at 2 Flood Street, Chelsea, or in her room in the House. Later, they continued, usually at Chequers, but sometimes at 10 Downing Street.

Mostly we met alone. In the early days, however, I was often accompanied by a well-known (some would say notorious) ex-senior man in Britain's Secret Intelligence Service, Nicholas Elliott. Son of a Provost of Eton, Elliott's main claim to fame was that he was the man who unmasked and confronted the master spy and traitor "Kim" Philby, to notoriety, that he allowed Philby to get away.

Taken aback, my friend asked for an explanation, which Turner gave readily. "You see, you're an anti-Soviet specialist. We don't need anti-Soviet specialists any more." My friend was one of 400 CIA Soviet experts fired by Turner. This catastrophic decision completed the self-emasculation of American intelligence.

The underlying argument was that the CIA's problems had been caused by HUMINT: Human Intelligence. The safest antidote was seen to be SIGINT: Signals Intelligence. The National Security Agency (NSA) offered SIGINT in abundance. Satellites did not talk to journalists or plot against the President. SIGINT did have one drawback, however. As

In 1976 and 1977, Elliott and I were involved in two secret counter-subversion exercises: one of them national, the other international. The originator of the national one was Stephen Hastings, a distinguished Conservative backbencher. The initiative for the international effort came from me [see panel, below].

Chronologically, the domestic operation came first. Stephen Hastings's idea was to set up a secret advisory committee to brief Mrs Thatcher and her closest colleagues on security and intelligence. We called the committee "Shield".

Shield's first move was to commission an extensive report on the current state of subversion and on the existing official agencies that were supposed to handle the problem. The report, which ran to about 100 pages, was drafted by a former senior member of the Secret Intelligence Service: an old and trusted friend of Stephen Hastings and myself. After revisions by Stephen, Nicholas and me, the final draft was ready in May 1977. It was comprehensive and accurate.

Why were we doing this? Memories are short, and I imagine most adults at that time had no idea that the situation was as grave as we knew it to be. The problem was subversion: the deliberate undermining of the State and society.

In Britain, as in other affected countries, the ultimate aim was to turn the country into a "people's democracy" on the East European model. The trades unions and the Labour Party had largely been taken over by the subversive Left. Many other areas of life were affected: the schools and universities, the media, the Churches.

The unions were the biggest source of the Labour Party's funds, and since the biggest unions were controlled by the subversive Left, there was little the moderates could do. Moreover, the subversives were rapidly taking over Labour's constituency organisations. Positive action was needed.

The Shield Committee was necessarily small, secrecy being a paramount consideration. The facts I give here have not, until now, been published.

Shield divided naturally into two segments: the active and the passive; or alternatively the givers and the receivers. On the giving side, apart from Stephen Hastings and myself, we had Nicholas Elliott and the late Harry Spoorborg, who died in 1984, had served with distinction as deputy head of the wartime Special Operations Executive (SOE), the secret agency that operated in German-occupied France and other countries. Of Norwegian origin, he could not have been more British, from his Rugby and Cambridge intonation to his quiet, underplayed sense of humour.

The odd man out was Peter Carrington. As defence secretary in the Heath government, as a former high commissioner in Australia, and (by then) as shadow foreign secretary, he had a fairly wide knowledge of foreign affairs. Prag-



"From now on, Brian, these are my ideas." Mrs Thatcher's agenda to defeat the menace of the hard Left was outlined to her by Crozier. His Shield counter-intelligence organisation drew up numerous strategic papers on ways to defeat subversion

We produced some 20 papers on various aspects of subversion. The researchers were two younger men, Peter Shipley and Douglas Eden. The papers were always made available immediately to Margaret Thatcher and, on request, to other members of the committee on the "receiving" side. Apart from Mrs Thatcher, there were three of them, all members of her shadow cabinet: Lord Carrington, William (later Lord) Whitelaw, and Sir Keith Joseph.

The contrasting attitudes of the "receivers" were interesting and, in one case, disquieting. Willie Whitelaw, bombastic and self-deprecatory, the ultimate squirearchy (and later, Mrs Thatcher's skilled fixer) seemed only physically present: a bulky presence, to be sure, but not a participating one. Keith Joseph, civilised, studious, earnest of mien, was deeply interested: out of his depth but eager to learn.

The odd man out was Peter Carrington. As defence secretary in the Heath government, as a former high commissioner in Australia, and (by then) as shadow foreign secretary, he had a fairly wide knowledge of foreign affairs. Prag-

matists, by definition, find it hard to understand a rigid ideological challenge, and Carrington was a self-declared pragmatist. I had met him several times, and had been susceptible to his undoubted charm. Alone of the receivers, he was systematically hostile to our ideas and even more to our proposals.

On Tuesday, April 18, 1978, Carrington shocked us all. The lead story in *The Times* that day was headed: "Mrs Thatcher Warned In Secret Report Of Defeat In Confrontation With Unions". In a secret report to Mrs Thatcher by a high-level Tory group led by Lord Carrington, she was advised that a future Conservative government would be unable to defeat certain powerful trades unions in a direct confrontation. As Secretary of State for Energy, Carrington had played a leading role (said *The Times*) in handling the emergency created by the miners' strike which brought down the government of Edward Heath in February 1974. Here he was telling the future prime minister that she would have to cave in if similarly challenged.

That morning I wrote to Mrs Thatcher:

The story in *The Times* today came as a disagreeable shock. As you know, I've spent a good deal of time and effort preparing a paper on the same theme, on the assumption that this was in the area reserved for Shield. The paper went to Peter C [Carrington] and of course to you. It would have been useful to know that he was exploring the same theme with others - and incidentally coming to conclusions diametrically opposed to ours. It is very easy to prove that victory is impossible. This could have been done with persuasive finality in June 1940.

I advised Mrs Thatcher to destroy my note, but I kept a copy for myself. By the time the second great challenge from the miners' (now led by Arthur Scargill) came in 1985, Carrington was out of office. She stood firm and defeated them.

The public image of Mrs Thatcher in later years, and especially after her second election victory, is of a masterful (or, as her enemies might put it, an imperious) leader, full of self-confidence and authority. There was never any doubting her determination, but she was far from self-confident in those early days. Indeed, she was uncertain of herself, she surrounded

herself with her defeated rivals, including Whitelaw, Sir Geoffrey Howe and James Prior, and a number of others who came to be known as "wets". These and others were in her shadow cabinet at the time I met her.

The Shield approach was strictly within the framework of democracy and liberty, including a strong element of what has since become known as "Thatcherism": a free market, and a marked reduction in the scope of government interference in people's lives. We also called for secret and compulsory balloting for executive office in the trades unions and the outlawing of the closed shop.

In some respects, therefore, we anticipated certain great and much needed reforms of the Thatcher era. I considered it one of my own prime tasks (as distinct from Shield's) to strengthen her self-confidence and to suggest ways in which to cultivate and consolidate a public image of clear-headedness and resolution. To this end, at one of our private Flood Street meetings, I handed her a programme of "Psychological Action". This was in no sense a gimmick. At that time, in the 1976-8 period, what the voters

wanted was: safer streets; a wider choice of jobs; freedom of travel (meaning, primarily, unrestricted access to foreign currency); more spending money; easier mortgages and more freedom of choice, for instance in education. What they dreaded was: trade union power; government bullying; "Russia", meaning primarily Soviet nuclear power and the threat of nuclear war; and, in a hazy way, political violence with something nasty at the end, such as "Fascist" military rule, and concentration camps. There was a curious little understanding of the real problem, which was not Fascism but Communism. The fact that few people understood this was itself part of the problem.

In terms of Psychological Action, I proposed a list of selected questions to be put in political speeches. Here are some of them:

● Do you like paying the political levy? (Meaning, did trades unionists approve of having a portion of their pay packet diverted to supporting the Labour Party? The point was that support for Labour was taken for granted. You could opt out of the levy, and mark yourself as out of step. You did not opt in: the union did that for you, without your consent.)

● Do you think it right that people like Jones and Scamlin (Jack Jones and Hugh Scamlin, union leaders) should tell the government what to do?

● Is it right that Pops and Comies should order you to strike?

And there were judiciously chosen side arguments such as:

● The trades unions are pricing Britain out of the market and you out of a job.

● American workers are three times as well off as you - because of free enterprise.

The paper I gave Mrs Thatcher was very short. She read it attentively, then sprang to her feet, walked to a cupboard and said, as she unlocked and unlocked it: "From now on, Brian, these are my ideas." I did not object. Many, though not all, of the points made surfaced in her speeches and those of her followers in the run-up to the next election.

The work of the Shield committee fell into two broad categories. One was the "wets". The other was strategic. The latter was concerned with the state of Britain's security, proposals for fundamental change, and contingency planning for a major crisis - a widespread paralysis caused by political strikes and riots - which Margaret Thatcher might well face when, as we trusted, the Conservative party won the next general election.

Between May 1977 and July 1979, Shield produced no fewer than 15 strategic papers, recommending counter-action to meet the subversive challenge and defeat it. There were proposals for reorganising the intelligence and security services; on public order in the event of widespread and organized rioting; and three papers on contingency planning for a Tory government.

One of our primary aims was to examine the security machine, spot its weaknesses, and make proposals for improvement. Our first attempt, the major paper of May 1977 on subversion, had proposed the reorganisation of the intelligence and security services. We recognised that MI-6 (foreign intelligence) was basically in good shape whereas MI-5 (security) was not.

Part 2: The top minister who sabotaged Mrs Thatcher's Shield

After Watergate the US had abandoned agents for satellites: the gap needed to be filled

For the good of the public: a private spy service

THE STARK fact was that by the mid-1970s the entire security apparatus of the United States was in a state of near collapse. A true anecdote illustrates the problem. One of my best sources who had been a very senior Agency [CIA] man in charge of counter-subversion in Western Europe, told me he was summoned to Langley by Admiral Stansfield Turner shortly after he took over as Director of Central Intelligence under President Carter in 1977. Virtually in one breath the Admiral had congratulated him on the "superb" job he had done, and added: "Therefore, I'm afraid you'll have to go."

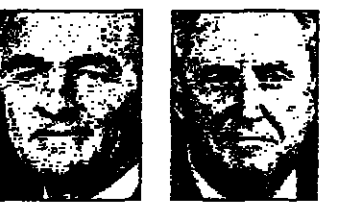
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Nicholas Elliott (a former senior MI6 man) put it (doubtless quoting somebody else): "The spy in the sky tells you how many missiles the Soviets have, but not what they intend to do with them".

The question was whether something could be done in the private sector - not only in Britain, but in the United States and other countries of the Western Alliance. A few of us had been exchanging views, and decided that action was indeed possible. I took the initiative by convening a very small and very secret meeting in London. We met in the luxurious executive suite of a leading City of London bank on the morning of Sunday February 13, 1977. Our host, a leading figure in the bank, took the chair. Three of us were British, four were American, with one German. Ill health prevented a French associate from attending.

Apart from the banker and myself, the other Briton was Nicholas Elliott. The German was a very active member of the Bundestag, whose career had started in diplomacy.



Secrets: Stansfield Turner (left) and Vernon Walters

The Americans included two able and diligent Congressional staffers, and the Vietnamese-born representative of a big Belgian company. Also there was the remarkable General Vernon ("Dick") Walters, recently retired as Deputy Director of Central Intelligence, and later to re-emerge in public life as President Reagan's ambassador, first to the United Nations and later to the German Federal Republic.

I PROPOSED the creation of a private sector operational intelligence agency, beholden to no government, but at the disposal of allied or friendly governments for certain tasks which, for one rea-

son or another, they were no longer able to tackle. I must make it clear that these tasks did not include any acts of armed force or physical coercion.

Our main concerns would be: ● To provide reliable intelligence in areas which governments were barred from investigating either through recent legislation (as in the US) or because political circumstances made such inquiries difficult or potentially embarrassing. ● To conduct secret counter-subversion operations in any country in which such actions were deemed feasible.

There were no dissenting voices, although there was much discussion about the areas for action: the "requirements", in intelligence jargon. It was agreed that no outsiders should be made aware of the existence of the organisation, except if, in the judgment of one of us, the person was deemed a suitable candidate for recruitment. In the interest of security, I proposed that the organisation should be nameless. Some months later, however, a distinguished

Argentine associate of ours, a former justice minister (and anti-Peronist) named Jacques Ferrarius, suggested to me that we should call ourselves "The 61". Why "61"? I asked. "Because the Fourth International split," he replied.

THE REASONING was abstruse. There had been four Internationals, of which the third was Lenin's Comintern. The Fourth International was the Trotskyist one, and when it split, this meant that, on paper, there were five Internationals. In this numbers game, we would constitute the Sixth International, or "61".

On this tenuous basis, the organisation was known, among its members, as "The 61", and members or conscious contacts were known as "numerical".

One of the security problems we faced, and discussed that morning, was fund-raising. Nicholas Elliott and I undertook to find the money. The task was daunting, for how does one raise money for a secret agency without running the risk that some of the people approached would talk about it? In the event, however, we had no leaks from the business world.

We agreed on a target figure of \$5 million a year, which may sound a lot, but was trifling in the face of the enemy's enormous resources.

The brightest spies in the business

Inside Century House

IT WAS three decades ago that Ronald Franks, my Secret Intelligence Service friend, telephoned me to suggest an urgent lunch at his club, the Athenaeum. He told me he had been authorised to take me to SIS headquarters and introduce me to some of his colleagues. "You'll find we're still a gentlemanly outfit," he said.

After lunch, we took a taxi to Century House, the 1960s high-rise building south of the Thames which housed SIS. At the security checkpoint I was issued with a temporary pass, and Franks escorted me to an upper floor, where he introduced me to the head of his department, which dealt with 'Sino-Soviet questions. This was my first shock: I had met the man, Noel Cunningham (not his real name), several times. That day and on future days, I met a number of people whom I had talked to, in the Traveller's oc-

elsewhere, in the belief that they were "Foreign Office". One of them I had known as a colleague when he had worked for *The Economist* Intelligence Unit. Later on, at Century House, I met a number of non-officials whom I had known for years, whose "contact" with MI-6 was similar to mine.

Ronald Franks was right in his choice of "gentlemanly". Friendly though enigmatic smiles were on every face. Speech was soft, and in public tended to come out of the side of the mouth: tell-tale professional quirks of the intelligence world.

Cunningham wanted to know if I would be prepared, on occasion, to write analytical reports. I readily agreed. This would involve access to material not publicly available.

He told me about GCHQ at Cheltenham, the highly secret signals intelligence interception organisation. "It's a veritable industry," said Noel, adding with relish: "That's the stuff that really gives you an intellectual erection."

In general, I found the level of intellectual attainment and rigour of analysis higher in SIS than in any other institution with which I had dealings.

Free Agent by Brian Crozier will be published by HarperCollins on July 22 at £18. © Brian Crozier 1993



Shadowplay: two of the covers Ritts produced for Vogue

Putting on the Ritts

Herb Ritts has photographed them all, from Gorbachev to Madonna. How does he react to finding himself in focus?



The photographer on camera: Herb Ritts with his images of the famous



Exclusive imagery: photographs by Ritts of Jean Paul Gaultier (left) and Karl Lagerfeld... "I like it to be about the inner soul of the person... hopefully it has another meaning, or a bit of mystery," Ritts says

Courtesy of Hamilton's Gallery

There is little rhyme or reason to celebrity. Trying to predict the shooting stars is impossible. We not only have superstars, we have superstar hairdressers who coil the locks of the famous and superstar photographers who tell all in print. Celebrity rubs off.



Fashion
—
IAIN R. WEBB

It is not surprising, then, that the photographer Herb Ritts is being treated to a packed itinerary of photo calls and interviews during his stay in London for the launch of his new book, *Notorious*. Ritts has photographed them all. From Nancy Reagan to Naomi Campbell, Gorbachev to PerWee Herman, and, of course, Madonna. Now, Ritts must face the camera.

"I really don't enjoy that," he says. "I guess it makes me more sensitive when I'm taking a picture of someone, but I'd rather the work speaks for itself."

Since the late 1970s, when Ritts (then a salesman) bought a camera and took some pictures of his friends (who happened to include the actor Richard Gere—then a relative unknown), his work has appeared in international fashion journals, been exhibited in galleries, and been the focus for several lavish coffee-table books, which push photography into the realms of art.

His impact on the fashion world has itself been notorious. His pictures are immediately identifiable, a mix of super-classicism and shadowplay. In the late 1980s, a time of big hair and big-bucks glamour, Ritts pared down the images he created for the fashion page. In British *Vogue*, October 1988, he photographed model Tatjana Patitz shrouded in black, set into a background of rock as if she

were only part of the story. Another set of pictures saw Patitz again, dressed in shimmering silver. Out of seven pictures, Ritts cropped her famous face from all but three. Ritts creates unique fashion photographs which are more than just selling another pretty dress, or face for that matter.

"I kept thinking about the layout. I like to abstract it—trying something different where it isn't just about clothes. Where the clothes meld with the photograph, it gives you an interesting image to remember," Ritts says.

"A lot of magazines these days, especially in America, are not interested in the photograph. I look at magazines and they just look flat. You're not seeing a great photograph, or a series of photographs, making a magazine where you think 'I'm going to keep this issue', or 'that cover's fantastic'... I think these days it's a lot more about selling clothes. Now and then a great story will get through. I think the talent is there, but I think it's a bit sad when you pick up a *Harpers Bazaar* from the 1940s and think 'God, this is fantastic'. Those pictures live on. I don't think you will remember a lot of the pictures or issues which were produced in the late eighties into the nineties."

He has largely shifted his emphasis from fashion photography to celebrity portraits and more personal projects,

but he says: "I always like to mix it. I still shoot fashion, but I'm very picky about it. In the end I'm trying to make a photograph."

Can photographing a frock be as inspiring as taking a portrait of Tina Turner or the Dalai Lama? "In a different way. I don't like to be pegged. I like doing a fashion sitting one week, then a celebrity, or the two can be combined—or doing nudes or fine art work. No matter what the subject matter is, it really doesn't matter to me, because they're linked by the stamp of the style. I do enjoy fashion photography, but more and more it's frustrating, because to put that much energy into it, and then it finally arrives at the magazine and they say it's too strong, or it's too this, or too that. Then you know it's good, by the way."

Rather than "have a magazine screw it up", Ritts has turned his attention to directing videos and commercials and creating books over which he can keep complete control.

Despite media attention focusing on the man behind the lens, he does not feel the mantle of celebrity gets in the way. He separates himself from the media circus, and doesn't shoot-and-tell. "I think it's more of a by-product... the work is really the key and to me that's important."

He sums up his style by saying: "More and more, I enjoy the fact that the work is very strong, in the sense that it's classic. I'd like it to be about the inner soul of the person... hopefully it has another meaning, or a bit of mystery."

His latest work centres on the male nude, seemingly the antithesis of fashion photography. Is this some kind of covert statement? "It's interesting. With the male nudes there is a clean line, clean classic shapes. The fashion I enjoy doing is similar in the sense that it's more linear and shapely, so it actually mirrors it. It really isn't the antithesis, it's kind of the follow-up."

Whatever Herb Ritts does next, you can be sure flashbulbs will be following not far behind.

Stylish partners

THE Royal College of Art held its annual gala last week, the M.A. graduate fashion show. This year there was a new emphasis on textile and design students working together. The RCA's professor of textiles and fashion, John Miles, explained: "I want to see more lending and borrowing between students. Fabric is no longer a flat surface."

A collection by graduates Dominique Coffat and Gareth Jones was a perfect illustration: woven tapestry jackets and skirts of inky blues and black were embroidered and printed with black ravens.

The menswear was outstanding. Kit Warren showed pale blue, Italianesque tailoring with shirts in shades of pink. Womenswear was treated with a lighter touch; chiffon, silk and satin dominated the evening. Mark Watson's feathered bustier and "flamingo" chiffon pants were fresh and forward looking, and a collection by Laura Thomson was a triumph of fluid separates for those of a larger size. Elizabeth Andrews and Paul Rilly used street and club culture as inspiration. Individuality and commercial sense went hand in hand.

DESIGNERS Ian and Marcel, best remembered for their innovative textile creations, are to be acknowledged in an exhibition at the Dress Gallery at the Victoria and Albert Museum from July 8. The show is a tribute to a brilliant partnership which stretched the imagination of fashion. Nearly 200 outfits are displayed in the gallery, showing the development of fashionable dress and accessories from the 17th century to the present day.

Three outfits by designers Christian Lacroix, Paul Smith and Helen Storey were recently acquired by the museum to update 1990s fashion in haute couture, menswear and street style.

CONGRATULATIONS to model Saffron Aldridge, "Mother to be", *Times Magazine* last weekend, who has given birth to a son, Milo.

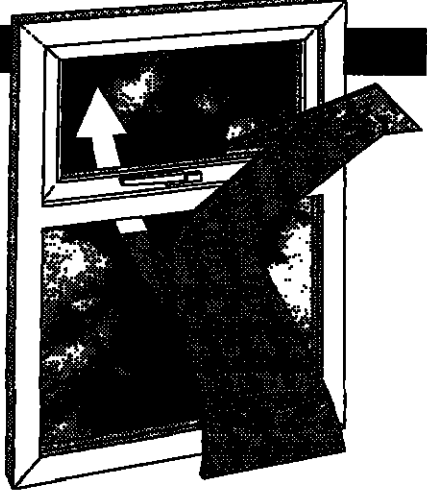
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An exhibition of Herb Ritts' work to launch his book, *Notorious*, is at Hamilton's Gallery, 13 Curzon Place, London W1, until August 28. All Herb Ritts' personal proceeds from the book's sales will be donated to AmFar and other AIDS-related charities.

Matthew Parris



Two candidates for secret ugliness — the kind we unconsciously filter from our minds — in 20th-century Britain

Have you ever caught sight of yourself in a mirror and for an instant realised that what you see is a plain and rather disfiguring face, idly wonder who that unrecognised looking person could be, experience a momentary dislike, then awake to a disarming truth.

We get used to the things we have to. It follows — though it may sound a contradiction — that the ugliest features of an age are unlikely to be obvious to us. If they were obvious they would have been remedied. True and lasting ugliness is more likely to be an insidious thing, escaping conscious notice, spoiling the world secretly. To surprise it we need to prow, catching it unaware.

I have two candidates for secret ugliness in 20th-century Britain. With one you may well agree, and with the other quite probably not. Both thoughts came to me last week as I gazed out over Chatsworth Park on a windy, sunny summer Sunday. There were, for a start, no poles and overhead cables. I suppose we all agree that overhead

wires are a disfiguring sight. But they are so common that for much of the time we hardly notice them. Yet survey an English village where the telegraph and power lines, and the poles that go with them, have been buried or removed (and, better still, the street lamp-posts have been removed too, and street lighting moved to the walls of buildings) and your immediate impression will be of how attractive the main street looks. Even quite undistinguished architecture becomes pleasing.

Very often we form the opinion that a town or village looks pleasantly "unspoilt" without even realising that this is the reason. As with the hiss of an audio cassette or the clatter of forks at a dinner party, we have programmed ourselves to screen out extraneous "noise" from our conscious notice and poles and wires, like television aerials on chimneys, are part of the extraneous visual noise of our age.

But listen to a tape recording of a dinner party, and the noise not of conversation but of cutlery leaps out at you as the dominant sound. Without vision to guide you, or the sensation of "being part of it" to focus you away from the distractions, you are able to judge the relative loudness of competing sounds. Watch a cat or baby jump when somebody coughs: this is because a cough is really very loud, but we have learnt to suppress that perception.

It is in holiday snaps of places we have visited that the intrusion of poles and

wires is best judged. An overhead power line that we did not even notice among the flowering trees seems to jump from the photograph and grab the viewer by the throat. A pylon that hardly stood out of place beside the castle becomes, now that it is framed in a picture, the grossest intrusion.

Which it is. Only because we have to, do we filter from our notice the wretched jumble of harsh, geometrical lines segmenting and degrading almost every modern view. As the millennium turns, a crusade to bury wires, chop down poles, hide street lighting and remove from our countryside the armies of pylons marching from hilltop to hilltop, would bequeath more, visually, to the next millennium than any other co-ordinated, practicable and realisable campaign I can think of. It would be enormously expensive, but worth every penny.

What inspired these thoughts was the vista over Chatsworth Park, where I suppose a combination of money, influence and the knowledge that there is something priceless there to preserve has kept

True ugliness is likely to be an insidious thing, spoiling the world secretly.

the electrical and telecommunications furniture out of sight. You may agree with the first conclusion I drew from the scene. You are less likely to share the second: that walls, hedges and fences are ugly. Chatsworth Park is a huge area, of pasture and woodland in the ownership of one family. Dear need to move freely there, and dukes have wanted to be able to ride without hindrance. But I have no doubt that it is for aesthetic reasons, too, that great English families have wherever possible avoided breaking their estates into "fields". At Chatsworth there are cattle grids as you enter and leave, and the road then wanders, unfenced, unhedged and unditched over the hills. For once, nothing seems to hustle the traveller back onto the tarmac. The verges do not repel. He and his eye are invited to stray into the countryside, not forced back by the proprietorial clenched fists of walls and fences.

If we must accept the common agricultural policy, with its set-aside schemes, then do we have to set land aside in hideous and temporary little packages? Couldn't new woods replace the hedgerows that house animal and plant life? Limestone from our dry stone walls could stay the quarry's hand for a generation.

Britain would look far lovelier if the millions of tons of stone and thousands of miles of spiky thornbush that cut it into sections — dry sections — were swept away. Something there is, as Robert Frost wrote, that doesn't love a wall.

The Chancellor's refusal to cut expenditure sends an ominous invitation to spending ministers

Kenneth Clarke has one distinction as a Chancellor: one can see which mistakes he is proposing to make. He makes his policy quite clear, in direct and lucid language. In his *Financial Times* interview last Friday, he went through the decisions that he will have to take. He is right that the level of the budget deficit is far too high; he is right that recovery in itself is not going to solve the problem of the public finances; he is charitable to describe John Major's attributions of 70 per cent of the deficit to the recession as a "guessimate"; he is, in my view, right to warn that taxes may have to be raised beyond the Lamont proposals; he is dangerously wrong to rule out cuts in public expenditure as a contribution to closing the deficit.

Mr Clarke used a number of arguments to defend his decision not to cut government spending. He argued that the existing ceilings were far tougher than is generally realised. But they are not. There has been no change in public expenditure plans for the next two years. They were originally set to allow 2 per cent growth in real terms, since we left the exchange-rate mechanism estimates of future price movements have risen, so they are now virtually flat in real terms. We are going to have a couple of years in which public expenditure is supposed not to rise. These two years come after a 17 per cent rise in real terms during the past five years. These are the tough ceilings the Chancellor talks about: they are not half tough enough.

He then argued that spending was set to grow more slowly than gross domestic product. That would be true of the estimates for the next two years. Nevertheless, spending this year has been growing twice as fast as GDP. Over the past five years, the 17 per cent rise in spending has been matched by a zero increase in GDP.

Clarke is a PM, not a Chancellor

There has to be a pause, and the share of government spending in GDP needs to be reduced towards the levels of five years ago. The Chancellor also wants a settlement that is deliverable, by which he means that the government does not have the political strength to cut expenditure. Perhaps that is true.

Mr Clarke then outlined his philosophy of public expenditure. "The reason for going for public expenditure is because you are committed to certain public programmes which you are bound to deliver. And the objective of the government is to deliver what it said it was going to deliver in a cost-effective way within whatever you judge the country can afford."

This is the language of a spending minister. It is dangerous language for a Chancellor who is always surrounded by spending ministers with their departmental interests to push. A Chancellor who is not against expenditure is like a clergyman who is not against sin. In the circumstances of a £50 billion deficit, a Chancellor cannot afford to accept every government programme as sacred because "the objective of the government is to deliver what it said it was going to deliver".

Leaving aside inflation, Mr Clarke is right to argue that there are only three ways to reduce the deficit: through the recovery, which is still weak, through tax increases or through expenditure cuts. He is right

to want to reduce the deficit faster than recovery alone can provide, or than Norman Lamont planned. Yet that leaves him only with the choice between taxes and spending cuts to achieve his aim. His predecessor has already imposed future £10 billion tax increases which still left the deficit running at least £10 billion too high in future years.

Many Conservatives on the right would say that there should be no tax

William Rees-Mogg

increases; the Chancellor says that there will be no expenditure cuts. Michael Heseltine has argued that there may need to be both, and that is the prudent view. If the Chancellor sets himself a further £10 billion target of deficit reduction and aims to do it all through higher taxes, he will have to raise each of the income tax rates by five pence, or find the equivalent elsewhere. That would abandon the Conservative aim of reducing taxes further. It would destroy the basis of the Conservative party's political appeal.

The Chancellor's decision not to seek expenditure cuts also sends a clear message — the wrong one — to

spending departments. Government expenditure is like a tug of war; it is not possible to keep it steady unless the Chancellor is pulling as hard as possible to reduce it.

In many ways Kenneth Clarke reminds one of the young Winston Churchill. He is self-confident, ebullient and frank. These are all good qualities. He has powers of leadership and is prepared to tackle any opposition. He is naturally decisive. Quite a few right-wing Conservatives feel that he has the right temperament but the wrong ideas. Unfortunately, again like the young Winston, he is capable of extraordinary errors of judgment. It took more than 20 years for Conservatives to forget the Dardanelles.

When he was a spending minister, Mr Clarke was responsible for one of the worst blunders of the past decade, the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital. It is in many ways a splendid building, like a luxury hotel in Los Angeles, though on a relatively inaccessible site. It will no doubt be one of London's leading hospitals for decades to come. But as government decision-making it is a notorious folly.

As Secretary of State for Health, with David Mellor as one of his junior ministers, Mr Clarke approved the hospital project in December 1988. In January 1989 — a month later — he issued a document which restated the doctrine that London had too many hospital beds. The Chelsea

and Westminster was then expected to cost £80 million; it has cost about £240 million. The sale of sites was forecast to produce £100 million; they may have produced £20 million. A proposed net saving of £20 million has changed to a net cost of over £200 million. There were no advance estimates of running or maintenance costs, which are likely to be high. Assurances that the new hospital's costs would not lead to budget cuts in the rest of the region have not been honoured.

Virginia Bottomley's task of rationalising London's hospitals has been made infinitely more difficult by the building of a very expensive new hospital in London when it had already been known for more than ten years that London had too many hospitals. The Chelsea and Westminster was an extravagant mistake, whose costs were never effectively estimated or controlled. The minister responsible was Mr Clarke.

There is certainly a split in the cabinet on expenditure. Mr Heseltine is not the only minister to see that spending cuts may be unavoidable. Peter Lilley recognises that the social welfare system will have to be reconstructed. Michael Portillo, as Chief Secretary to the Treasury, will not be helped by a spending Chancellor. Mr Clarke declares himself a spender and an enthusiastic European; those are unpopular attitudes with many Conservative voters.

I still feel that the positive aspects of Kenneth Clarke's character might yet make him the best available successor as prime minister. He may be the right officer to lead the forlorn hope, the do-or-die brigade. But I begin to think that the great advantage of making him prime minister would be to get him out of the Treasury. Quite literally, a Chancellor who refuses to cut expenditure is more than Britain can now afford.

Labour skids on easy street

The government's ills have stalled John Smith, says Peter Riddell

Labour leaders should be confident and optimistic, celebrating the government's endless sea of trouble. But they are not. The Opposition is edgy and fractious. The party has wasted much of the time since the election. Labour's long-term interests might have been better served if the Tories had remained popular for longer, and the usual mid-term troubles had occurred after two years rather than after five months. The Tories' difficulties have been a mixed blessing for Labour. They have offered an opportunity to attack a weak government, but they have also been a distraction. Opposing the Tories over the economy, pit closures, VAT increases and school testing has absorbed much of the limited resources of Labour leaders. The party has even occasionally broken the usual bipartisan consensus on foreign policy, as yesterday when John Smith criticised the government's support for the American raid on Baghdad.

Attacking the Tories has also provided an excuse to put off difficult decisions. Radical change seems less necessary when the Tories are in such a mess. The argument of "one more heaven" looks an appealing, as well as a comfortable, option when Labour is 15 to 20 points ahead in the polls. But that attitude is dangerously complacent. Even Labour's current standing in the polls of 44 per cent, according to MORI, is less than the party won from mid-1989 until the end of 1990. And John Smith's personal rating, measuring those satisfied minus those dissatisfied with his performance, is negative and is worse than Neil Kinnock's was for most of that period.

The government could fall apart as either John Major or a successor fails to prevent Tory divisions over Europe and the economy from splitting the



party. We could be seeing the start of the disintegration of the ruling party after more than 14 years in office, similar to the Tories' self-destruction under Arthur Balfour in the early 1900s. But Labour cannot count on being handed office. It is not good enough for the party to hope that memories of the early 1980s will fade and that Mr Smith's reassuring presence will be enough.

Labour has lost in the past because voters during the 1980s, especially in southern England, have not trusted the party, regarding it as too concerned with minority and trade union interests. That is why the debate over the party's links with the unions matters. Mr Smith's proposals for "one member, one vote" (Omov) in place of the indefensible block vote would not just make Labour more democratic, but would also change

the character of the party. The unions speak for only a minority of voters, less than a third of the labour force. Ending the block vote is necessary if Labour is to cease appearing just as a spokesman for producer interests rather than for consumers, patients and parents as a whole.

The omens at present look bad for Mr Smith. However, this is the season of union conferences, and bombastic comments, such as those of John Edmonds earlier this month, are partly for internal union consumption. The real bargaining will start in a couple of weeks' time after the end of the transport workers' conference. Mr Smith is sticking to Omov, and the unions do not have an agreed alternative. So there is scope

for negotiations over the terms by which union members paying the political levy become individual party members.

Mr Smith's problem in part is that he has failed to convince activists in the party's heartlands that Labour needs to reform itself. His first conference speech late last September should have confronted the party with the need for change. But it did not. The opportunity for a radical rethink is fast disappearing.

The Labour leader likes to talk of playing a long game, a gradual build-up to victory in 1996-97. He is right to dismiss naïve talk of trying to oust the Tories now and to be wary of making over-precise, and costly, promises. The party has plenty of review groups, such as the commission on social justice. But these are being treated as a substitute for the

discussion of fresh ideas now.

The leadership is, however, divided on key issues, such as Europe and the economy. Gordon Brown has had to spend time resisting calls, last summer for devaluation, and at present from within part of the Tribune group for a big expansionary package which would raise borrowing. Such proposals would undermine the party's economic credibility. But these arguments, reinforced by rivalries within the shadow cabinet, have prevented the party from offering a coherent alternative macro-economic policy. Labour has so far dodged explaining how it will cut the budget deficit, merely talking about the impact of resumed growth.

What is missing is a sense of intellectual excitement, which the Tories conveyed in the late 1970s. That reflects both complacency and the poor quality of much of the shadow cabinet. They manage feeble sound-bites attacking the government, but all too often fail to give any idea of how, for example, they would handle the revolution in the public services now under way.

I have just read a pamphlet, published today, from Demos, the recently formed think-tank of the "hard centre". The author criticises the structural imbalances left over from the 1980s and urges a series of radical moves such as breaking up the clearing banks into regional entities to provide finance for industry, ending subsidies for owner-occupiers, curtailing the tax privileges of pension funds, and new forms of corporate ownership to end the bias towards short-term decisions. The pamphlet deserves a serious response. The author is not, however, a new Labour MP keen to stimulate Labour's debate. It is Alan Duncan, the Tory MP for Rutland and Melton since April last year.

Labour now needs to think less cautiously and more adventurously. That does not mean premature commitments. But it does mean breaking out of the political and intellectual restrictions of 14 years of failure — as Tony Blair has, for instance, been doing on law and order. One-party rule is damaging not only for the government but also for the Opposition.

The whole Hogg

JOHN MAJOR may be opposed to the state funding of political parties but Sarah Hogg, dubbed the unofficial prime minister by many Tory MPs, is not so sure. At least she wasn't in 1981 when Hogg, now head of the all-powerful Downing Street political unit, was one of the authors of a report deeply critical of the present funding system.

The Hansard Society report, *Paying for Politics*, stopped short of recommending unconditional state aid, but it described the existing system as "not altogether healthy". It went on: "In particular we think it desirable to restrain the growing dependence of the two major political parties upon institutional support..."

The report recommended that for every £2 contributed to a recognised political party a matching payment should be made from state funds. But this aid would have a catch for any party unsure about where its funds have come from. "Constitutional parties would be required to produce proper-

ly audited accounts before matching payments were made to their national headquarters." Furthermore, since the maximum individual subscription envisaged was only £2, the scheme would exclude wealthy donors or institutions.

Lord Barnett, the Labour peer and vice-chairman of the board of governors of the BBC, was also a signatory of the report, which he describes as very topical. He says: "I can recall we had some lively discussions. Sarah Hogg's was not a dissenting voice. I have certainly not changed my views on political funding. But perhaps Sarah Hogg has changed hers. But then, so may have Asil Nadir."

Give us a G

ON THE surface the news that Booker plans to organise a "Booker of Bookers" to mark the 25th anniversary of its literary prize this autumn sounds a good idea. The reality of choosing an outright champion from the past winners is proving more compli-

cated. For while most of the past winners have been easy to come by, two are proving elusive. The Book Trust, which administers the prize, cannot find copies of either John Berger's *G*, which won in 1972, or Stanley Middleton's *Holiday*, 1974's winner.

Martyn Goff, Book Trust chairman, is not surprised by the problems in getting hold of *G*. "It was not a very good book. I cannot remember it. It did not sell and it was not read. Stanley Middleton I find harder to believe — he sells well. We'll find copies, I'm sure. One of each will be enough and the judges can share." Copies to the Book Trust, please.

Crimewatch

IT'S not only politicians who pen memoirs these days. Ronnie Kray, the gangland leader, has finally decided to reveal all about his life of crime.

It should make interesting reading. Kray has been in Broadmoor Hospital for years and was recently back in the headlines for attempting to strangle a fellow inmate. His recollections have been assisted by an as-yet unnamed



DIARY

ghost writer, who made regular trips to the hospital. Predictably called *My Story* (his brother Reggie's was called *Our Story*), it will be serialised in a tabloid newspaper in the autumn.

According to the publisher, Sidgwick & Jackson, the book "will reveal all about the two

This frightens the life out of me

murders for which he was convicted, about life in the East End and in prison". The publisher insists it dare not say anything more about the book. Probably very wise.

Unkind cuts

AS a Treasury minister, Stephen Dorrell is desperately trying to find ways of cutting public expenditure. But Dorrell is also having to take painful decisions closer to home. The state of finances in his Loughborough Conservative Association is such that a number painful cost-saving measures are having to be considered — including the drastic step of making Dorrell's agent, Graham Ross-Clyde, redundant. No decision has yet been taken, but the association does need to save some £20,000 a year.

But Dorrell, who has a majority of 10,800, may lose something even dearer. Proposed boundary changes could turn his seat into a Labour marginal. It is proposed to move 8,000 voters into a new constituency, Ross-Clyde says. "The proposals are diametrically opposed to ours, and dovetail exactly with Labour's. But we are not talking about a disaster." Not yet, anyway.

Julian Critchley, who is retiring at the next election, has spent 15 years making jokes at the expense of Baroness Thatcher and a cabinet career. But her supporters have had the last laugh on Michael Heseltine's biography. The choice of Gerald Howarth to succeed Critchley at Aldershot is a surprise one. Howarth, the former MP for Cannock and Burnwood, was not only a member of the No Turning Back Group, he was also Lady Thatcher's last parliamentary private secretary.

Very debatable

A FORTNIGHT ago the Oxford Union drew the summer term to a close with model Jeremy Hall and Julia



In motions: Hall and Armstrong opened a new vein

Kirotchinka, the reigning Miss World, proposing the motion that it was "the duty of everyone to exploit their assets". Now the Cambridge Union hopes to hit back — with Max Clifford.

Clifford, the PR man who knows a thing or two about exploiting assets, has been invited by president Lucy Fraser to debate the motion: "This house believes that the press must have freedom to be irresponsible." What's puzzling the man whose past clients have included Azharia de Sancha and Pamela Bordes is why he's been asked to oppose



"Intellectually it's interesting to argue against what you believe in," he says. "But I do think they might not know my colourful reputation." Clifford is delaying accepting until that remote possibility is ruled out. He might have been happier had he made the trip to Cambridge last year when Pamela Armstrong astonished the union with a speech opposing a motion condemning the media intrusion. "What we really want are the juicy bits," enthused the TV newscaster. "Who is doing what to whose anatomy and when." A sort of Clifford's charter.

صلى الله عليه وسلم



STRIKES AGAINST SADDAM

Consistency and strength must be the West's watchwords

The American Defence Secretary, Les Aspin put a succinct case for the Tomahawk cruise missile attack on Saddam Hussein's intelligence headquarters: "The purpose of this is designed to send a message that his behaviour is unacceptable." That message has now been received in Baghdad.

One of the greatest achievements of the 1980s, the era of Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher, was to signal that the West was not only unprepared to appease its enemies but would also actively defend its interests. Challenges in the international arena would be met by a vigorous response, if necessary by force of arms. Potential aggressors knew the consequences of hostile behaviour. Predictability in international affairs is a precious commodity. Ambiguity is a source of international instability. President Clinton's resolute action in ordering new airstrikes against Iraq — so long the policy is consistently pursued — may go some way to creating new certainties.

At the onset of a new administration in Washington, Saddam Hussein may have harboured dreams that President Clinton, a liberal and noted opponent of the Vietnam war, would take a softer line than his predecessor. When hopes of lifting sanctions on his war-battered country evaporated, it was inevitable that the Iraqi dictator would seek to test the new President's mettle. The plot to assassinate George Bush would not only serve that purpose but would also remove an old enemy, and humiliate his hosts, the Kuwaiti government. It was a characteristically brutal plan by a regime founded on political terrorism and vendetta.

The Iraqi invasion of Kuwait itself, like the assault on the Falkland Islands by Argentina and the invasion of Afghanistan by the Soviet Union, occurred when adventurist dictatorships found ambiguities in Western policy. If the signals are unclear, as they

were in the State Department's communications with Saddam prior to his annexation of Kuwait, then hostilities become more likely. President Bush was forced to learn this lesson the hard way. He passed the test commendably after the clinical execution of Operation Desert Storm, but his administration's earlier mishandling of relations with Iraq, exacted a price.

Mr Clinton's foreign policy record so far has been patchy. He was full of rhetorical promises of support for Bosnia but empty of substance. Mr Clinton's Secretary of State, Warren Christopher, has sometimes looked like a sheep in wolf's clothing — a man returned from the dismal years of President Carter. America's European allies, much to blame for the muddle over Yugoslavia, have been able to find excuses for their own woeful record in Washington's confusion over aims and means. Even after the invasion of Somalia the Americans allowed the local warlords to retain control of their arms dumps. After his quarrels with the military there still remain lingering doubts about how high a price President Clinton will pay in pursuit of foreign policy goals.

The times may change but the pressure on American presidents to take a lead on foreign policy never falters. Just as President John Kennedy was written off as a weakling by Khrushchev after the failure of the Bay of Pigs operation, so President Clinton was bound to be challenged after his first irresolute months in office. That is not to say Mr Clinton should follow the course outlined in Kennedy's inaugural address that America "should pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe". Goals have to be selectively chosen. But if the West means business with Saddam and Saddam means business with the West, then consistency will have to be the watchword.

SO ADIEU THEN, ERM

Monetary independence would be good for France also

Last week the first open clash took place between the irresistible force of French economic nationalism and the immovable object of the Bundesbank determined to restore its anti-inflationary reputation. Edmond Alphandery, the French economics minister, was publicly rebuffed by the German government after declaring that the Bundesbank must follow an aggressive policy of monetary easing in coordination with the Bank of France. But this public row was only the tiniest visible sign of long-simmering private disputes.

How France and Germany choose to conduct their monetary policies is now, happily, a matter of less direct interest to Britain than it was in the days when sterling was inside the ERM. There are, nonetheless, important indirect implications for British government policy.

The most significant concerns the French attitude to free trade and the European single market. There are industrial leaders in France demanding an end to free trade, both globally and even within Europe, to compensate their industries for the costs of a monetary policy dictated by ERM constraints rather than French national interests. Many European politicians, including perhaps Kenneth Clarke, the pro-European chancellor, may be surprised to learn that the ERM is threatening the European single market as well as global free trade, since one of the selling points of monetary union was that a single currency would ultimately be necessary to make the single market work.

This was never plausible. But now, as Europe slides deeper into a recession largely attributable to the rigidity of the ERM, it is becoming increasingly clear that premature efforts to move to impose a single monetary

policy, far from being necessary for free trade, are sabotaging hopes for the single market. This is a lesson that Mr Clarke should remember in dealing with another consequence for Britain of the Franco-German monetary tensions.

British officials increasingly report pressure from their French counterparts not to reduce British interest rates any further. The main reason given is that the French are opposed to "competitive devaluation", whereby countries with falling exchange rates increase their exports by undercutting those, like France, which insist on keeping their currencies at uncompetitive rates. Another reason why the French are opposed to a further monetary easing in Britain is that they fear the political "contagion" from such a move. Every item of positive economic news coming out of Britain intensifies the demands from the French public and the Gaullist Eurosceptics in M Balladur's governing coalition for a domestically-oriented, France-first monetary policy similar to Britain's.

Both arguments must be firmly rejected. Lower interest rates in Britain will tempt France towards protectionism only if the French government insists on following a perverse monetary policy that produces mass unemployment and is likely to end in tears. At present there is no domestic reason for Britain to cut interest rates. But when the time comes, Mr Clarke should be prepared to move boldly, paying no attention to any objections from France. If the French complain about Britain's monetary policy, Mr Clarke should urge them to embrace monetary independence too. This would be good for France, for Britain and for Europe as a whole.

STAYING AWAY FROM SCHOOL

Truancy figures must not be hidden from view

No education programme, however admirable, will be able to benefit children if they do not attend school. Truancy subverts any attempt at improving national standards of educational performance. It also leads to juvenile crime and anti-social behaviour. Almost half of all young offenders convicted for joy-riding, arson and burglary were truants at school. Behaviour worsens when pupils escape from adult supervision in the classroom; the trouble is compounded by the lack of training and qualifications that school could have offered.

Last summer's White Paper on education committed the government to taking action against this destructive syndrome: the "cycle of criminality" that leads a child from boredom on the street corner to a prison cell. The first stage of any such crusade had to be an accurate assessment of the problem. Was the traditional picture of the truant as a disruptive, under-achieving male largely accurate? Were there a wide variety of reasons why pupils stayed away from school?

To provide some useful answers, the Department for Education commissioned the largest ever survey of truancy from North London University. The subsequent report provides a valuable snapshot of the prevalence and reasons for truancy. It stresses the important distinction between what the researchers call "blanket truancy" — unjustified absence for the entire school day — and "post-registration truancy" — in which pupils abscond only from certain lessons. The first might seem to suggest

intractable resistance to schooling, and the latter only a rejection of specific subjects or teaching styles. In fact, pupils themselves attribute both forms of truancy to the dislike of particular lessons.

In replying to questionnaires, pupils betrayed clear patterns: while just under a third of all students in the last two years of compulsory schooling had played truant at least once in the previous half-term, there was a hard-core of 8.2 per cent who had done so at least once a week. For all pupils, "lesson dissatisfaction", rather than a dislike of school itself, was the largest single cause of all forms of truancy.

School heads are sensitive on this point. They are inclined to blame high truancy levels on the social profiles of their pupils rather than the inability of their teaching staffs to motivate them. League tables of truancy figures would, they claim, reveal only the relative disadvantage of different school catchments. But the testimony of pupils themselves seems to belie this, and this report makes the point that a school's ethos is not irrelevant in controlling truancy.

A good school should encourage and reward high attendance in children whatever their background. To give in to fatalism over children's absenteeism from school is to shield what might well be poor teaching or inappropriate subject matter from badly needed examination. Insight into these patterns should be explored fully and not concealed by defensive education authorities.

Proposals to make better use of UN

From Brigadier Francis Henn

Sir, The present debate on the organisation, command and conduct of the UN's military operations, whether for peace-keeping or other purposes, comes none too soon. The inadequacies demonstrated in Bosnia and elsewhere have been evident for decades to military men with experience in UN service at senior level, but the lay attitude has been that these operations must inevitably be mounted on an *ad hoc* basis and that military people must learn to live with this fact of UN life.

The core of the problem has lain in Cold War factors which prevented the UN military staff committee, established under article 47 of the UN charter, from functioning as the founding fathers so wisely intended. Civilian members of the UN secretariat (assisted by a handful of junior officers) were obliged to carry out functions in the military sphere for which they had neither training nor experience. All UN operations have suffered in some degree on this account with resources wastefully employed, soldiers in the field made to suffer unnecessary hardship and the very success of the operations themselves jeopardised.

While some action has been taken to breathe new life into the military staff committee, high priority needs to be given to restoring to it the full responsibility and authority envisaged for it in the charter. To this end a four-star officer should be appointed as its chairman, on the model of NATO's military committee; he should be a member of the UN headquarters and would act as link between the committee and Security Council and as military adviser to the UN secretary-general.

The practicalities of establishing a standing UN force, as some have long advocated, make realisation a distant prospect. But two other steps could be taken now to improve the UN's military effectiveness.

First, there is a need for a staff college (analogous to the Nato defence college), at which both military and civilian senior personnel could be trained to fit them for posts of responsibility associated with the UN's military activities. Such a college could also study command and control arrangements, procedures and techniques, and such matters as logistics.

Second, there has been a long-standing requirement for the establishment at various strategic points of stockpiles of stores needed for UN peace-keeping (and other purposes, such as disaster relief), which could be used to equip quickly the contingents of those countries which otherwise are unable to respond to UN calls for men to meet both new and on-going UN commitments.

In spite of acknowledged imperfections, UN forces constitute an internationally acceptable instrument for the control or limitation of conflict, to which a more satisfactory alternative is not yet in sight. The need now is to temper and refine this instrument to make it more effective for the future. All the above are constructive steps to that end, and all could be implemented quickly, provided always that member states can bring them selves to will the means.

Yours faithfully,
FRANCIS HENN
(Chief of Staff,
UN force in Cyprus, 1972-4),
Royal Oak House,
Stoke Trister, Wincanton, Somerset.
June 22.

Wendy Savage

From Mr Mark Stephens

Sir, Your obituary of Brian Raymond (June 10) said that Wendy Savage was "... a consultant obstetrician whose controversial method of delivering babies led to her being accused of incompetence ...".

This is not so, and it belittles Brian Raymond's achievement in clearly demonstrating at the 1986 public enquiry that allegations levelled at Wendy Savage were false and unjustified. It repeats the very same false allegation about her methods which the enquiry found were well within the bounds of acceptable medical practice.

Wendy's fight has always been about who controls childbirth, something Brian Raymond well understood.

Yours faithfully,
MARK STEPHENS,
Stephens Innocent (solicitors),
Columbia House, 69 Aldwych, WC2.

Definition of style

From Ms Jill Cowey

Sir, If French flair requires the enthusiastic embrace of cigarettes, extra-marital affairs, and the "art" of being fastidious ("French flair v British grunge", June 23), then I would strongly recommend the pear shape of the English woman. Why promote such an ignorant and irresponsible attitude to health? Lung cancer and eating disorders do not constitute "style".

Yours sincerely,
JILL COWEY,
13 Adelaide Street,
North Oxford.
June 23.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Britain's future and place in Europe

From Sir Stephen Hastings

Sir, Mr Tristan Garel-Jones (*The Times* Essay, June 21) makes some interesting suggestions about the direction our negotiators should take in the European Community.

His ideas must merit serious attention in view of his recent experience at the Foreign Office. What a pity that he should spoil his argument by referring scornfully to those who have opposed Maastricht. "What do they want?", he asks, and ends a hypothetical list of what he plainly regards as absurd alternatives with the phrase — "or should brave little Blighy just go it alone?"

It is just this note of lofty disdain which does such harm to the European case. Those closely involved with Brussels — and as minister responsible he certainly was — are too prone to insist that our existence outside the EC is a delusion of fools and knaves.

There is nothing inevitable about the European experiment and no limit to the alternative relationships within it. The present failures of the Community are all too obvious and its likely development is best judged by assessing the individual national objectives of the membership — an exercise not exactly without precedent in our relations with Europe over the centuries.

This nation has traded, defended and prospered alone throughout a long and successful history. The world is a large place and we have often done best when we regarded it as our oyster.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN HASTINGS,
Milton Hall,
Peterborough, Cambridgeshire.
June 22.

From Mr Tom Jenkins

Sir, I was surprised to read Mr Tristan Garel-Jones's essay characterising the EC economic and social committee (ESC) as corporatist.

Tax charter at work

From the Financial Secretary to the Treasury

Sir, Your leader of June 23 on the citizen's charter rightly points out the importance of high standards and accountability in the public services, but perhaps does less than full justice to the improvements that have already taken place in line with charter principles.

Can I give just one example — the Inland Revenue. Given the nature of its work it is never likely to be the most popular government department. It has, however, done a great deal in recent years to improve the service it gives to taxpayers.

The taxpayer's charter was an early example of the principle of stating objectives and measuring achievement against them. The Revenue now has targets for the time taken to reply to letters, and for attending to callers at tax enquiry centres. Achievement is reported annually, and most targets are now being exceeded.

Earlier this year the Revenue published the first three in a series of

I rather suspect that he, like his former ministerial colleagues, finds uncomfortable the widely accepted view in other Community countries that attempts at dialogue and consensus between the various economic and social actors are better than the unremitting warfare that the government has been conducting against representative organisations; and that the ESC represents an important forum for such partnership at European level. The government disbanded the National Economic Development Council — the body most similar to the ESC we have had in the UK.

The committee of the regions, to which Mr Garel-Jones refers, will be composed of political representatives. We in the ESC wish them well in their efforts to represent their particular interests, and shall seek to co-operate with them in the common organisational structure of the two committees set down in the Maastricht treaty.

But economic and social organisations will still have a key part to play in advising the institutions in the spirit of openness and subsidiarity which the government says it supports.

Yours faithfully,
TOM JENKINS
(President, EC Economic and Social Committee workers' group),
Rue Ravenstein 2, 1000 Brussels.
June 23.

From Mr J. C. Stott
Sir, Mr Garel-Jones's essay on Europe rates B- at best. Neither the ERM nor Yugoslavia rates a mention: where has he been? These failures of the Community highlight the need for really hard thought before we proceed down the Maastricht route towards further integration.

Yours faithfully,
J. C. STOTT,
Bleak House, Coppenthall, Stafford.
June 21.

codes of practice which set out the standards people can expect from the department in specific work areas.

As you say, effective systems of redress are an important element in the citizen's charter initiative. Taxpayers already have the statutory right to appeal against tax assessments; in addition, Elizabeth Filkin has recently been appointed as the first Revenue adjudicator. She operates outside the Revenue's management structure, and her task is to look impartially at complaints about quality of service made to her by taxpayers.

These improvements are helping to meet the needs and concerns of ordinary taxpayers. And they have been achieved without spending extra public money. They demonstrate a real commitment to ensure that taxpayers receive the prompt, courteous and accurate service from the Inland Revenue that they are entitled to expect.

Yours sincerely,
STEPHEN DORRELL,
Treasury Chambers,
Parliament Street, SW1.

Tory fund-raising

From Professor R. T. Bottle

Sir, Your report (June 19) on the Conservatives' dinner mail fund-raising reminded me that in December 1991 I received a letter from Mr Chris Patten, the then chairman, asking me to join the Conservative Team 1000. Easy terms were offered — £500 now and £500 after six months.

I wrote him a polite letter asking for answers to two questions before I could consider it further. These were: 1. Why had his government kept university salary rises below the level of inflation for three successive years? 2. What could be done about the very considerable devaluation to my property caused by the inept handling of the Channel tunnel rail link by the government and by the [then] Conservative-controlled Kent County Council?

I did not receive a reply: I did not receive three further begging letters in 1992. No wonder you reported that the scheme made a loss.

Yours faithfully,
R. T. BOTTLE,
The City University,
Department of Information Science,
Northampton Square, EC1.
June 23.

Is that clock right?

From Dr Stuart Pollitt

Sir, Readers of Bernard Levin's article, "Timed to the last tick" (June 18), may be left with the impression that scientists like those at the United States National Institute of Standards and Technology build "atomic" clocks with accuracies of one second in a million years in order to gain a place in *The Guinness Book of Records*. Their endeavours, however, are driven by the demand from a growing sector of industry and commerce for ever more precise time-keeping.

Institutes like the NIST and the National Physical Laboratory in the UK which are charged with maintaining national standards for measurement need such clocks to enable them to provide a reference for thousands of commercial atomic clocks which underpin many industrial activities and services.

Even the most unpunctual person

Protection for the victims of crime

From Mr Martin Wright

Sir, That the code of the Press Complaints Commission intends to discourage "jigsaw identification" of victims of incest, as outlined in the letter (June 23) from Mr Keith Parker of the Guild of British Newspaper Editors, is welcome.

But Victim Support has two concerns.

First, why has it been decided to identify the offender rather than specify the type of offence? Naming the offender is surely likely to enable local residents to identify the victim, and if "the precise nature of the crime" is not stated, people will not be slow to guess. It would surely be in the victim's interest for newspapers to be specific about the crime while withholding any name which might lead to his or her identification.

Secondly, why only victims of incest? We receive complaints from victims of other types of crime, including burglary and assault, that they do not want their misfortune to be publicised. In some cases they fear that the publicity may put them at further risk.

Clearly it can be in the public interest to publish the news that a crime has been committed. But why should the victim be subjected to this invasion of privacy?

Yours sincerely,
MARTIN WRIGHT
(Policy Development Officer),
Victim Support, Cranmer House,
39 Brixton Road, SW9.
June 24.

Coach safety

From Dr Christine Laine

Sir, On June 19 you reported 11 out of 50 children needing hospital treatment following a collision between two coaches in Pembrokeshire. Our seven-year-old daughter has never yet travelled by car without the appropriate restraint and seat: the law now states we must use them if provided and the responsible adult readily complies.

Today our daughter is staying at home while the rest of her class travels by coach along the M6 without the security of seat belts. Sheer mass will reduce the impact damage to the coach in any accident, but many injuries would be caused through the "loose body" effect, as children are thrown around inside the coach.

Why is there no seat-belt legislation to protect our children and others who travel by coach from injury in high-speed accidents? Will there first have to be a major tragedy with many young lives lost or ruined?

As our daughter grows older it will be both less easy and, indeed, less desirable for us to restrict her activities, but will we be able to rely on the necessary regulations being introduced to ensure her continuing safety?

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTINE LAINE,
Springfield,
Marford, Wrexham, Clwyd.
June 24.

Airbus achievement

From Mr George Jones

Sir, The inadequate reporting in the British media of last week's historic and stirring Airbus A340-200 flight from Paris to Auckland and back (the fastest around the world in its class) emphasises yet again how the achievements of British industry are ill-considered, given that the wings and some of the control systems of this superb aircraft are designed and manufactured here.

This attitude will not be lost on our European partners and competitors.

Yours sincerely,
GEORGE JONES,
397 Fishponds Road, Bristol, Avon.
June 21.

Tests by the boxful

From Mrs Jane Whitter

Sir, In our school at present there are 28 boxes of papers, of various levels, together with instructions to teachers for the marking and reporting of these tests in English, maths, science, and design and technology. The complete papers for all subjects for GCSE examinations are contained in four boxes.

Surely some mistake?

Yours faithfully,
JANE WHITTER (Head of English),
Swavesey Village College,
35 Market Street,
Swavesey, Cambridge.
June 21.

In a jam

From Mr Christopher J. Warner

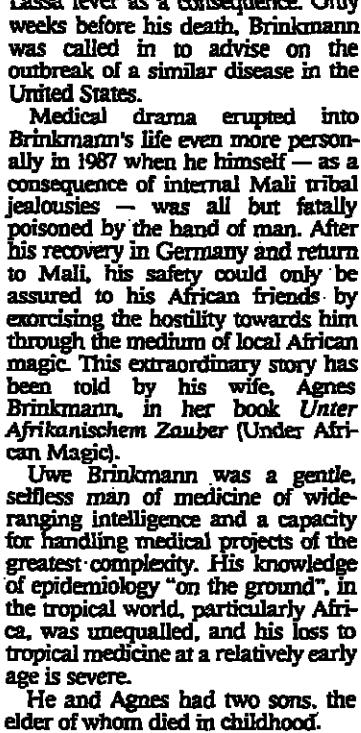
Sir, For some time now I have found that jam-jar labels affixed with modern adhesives are completely impervious to the time-honoured method of removal by soaking in water.

This is an irritation to the legions of home-made jam and chutney makers who do not wish to see their products bearing proprietary names, no matter how illustrious. Are we stuck with this problem?

Yours faithfully,
C. J. WARNER,
47A Clovelly Road, Ealing W5.
June 21.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

ARCHIE WILLIAMS



**FRANCISCO
DUSA TAVARES**

for American Ballet Theatre at Covent Garden in 1946.

He made further ballets for Markova and Dolin, and himself danced in Nijinska's *Les Biches* and *The Loved One* before the company disbanded. After a season as choreographer and leading dancer for Shakespeare plays and Mozart operas at the Regent's Park Open Air Theatre, Lester joined Tudor's London Ballet, where Tudor went to America in 1939, taking over the choreographer's own roles *Jardins sous la Liane*, *Dead Elegies* and *Gala Performance* and creating for the company another tribute to the romantic period, *Pas des Déeses*.

In 1940 Lester formed and directed the arts theatre ballet, creating several more ballets there, but the theatre was too small for the company to pay its way. Thereafter he turned mainly to musicals (Ivory Novello invited him to be leading dancer for *The Dancing Years* and to stage dances for that and other shows) and the Windmill, although he made ballets for Alicia Markova. Where *The Rainbow Ends* at the Festival Hall and a showcase for the ballet-trained skater Belina to dance at a London Festival Ballet gala. In 1965 the Royal Academy of Dancing made him head of its school there. Of course, a post he filled with energy and distinction until his retirement in 1975.

Ecgyptology was a special hobby and he had an extensive grasp of the subject. He did not marry.

Sousa Tavares had politics in his blood. Convinced that the Salazar dictatorship would not fall by peaceful means, he began to join in tentative attempts to overthrow it, including an attack on an army barracks near Lisbon cathedral. In 1969 — in the immediate post-Salazar period when it was believed that Salazar's successor Marcelo Caetano, would usher in a reformist "spring" — Sousa Tavares stood for election for the national assembly on a ticket

Sousa Tavares had declared himself a candidate for the Lisbon municipal assembly on the Partido da Terra (Earth Party) ticket just before his death. But his last duel was to take on the old, established military hierarchy. In 1991, he had officers had awarded decorations and pensions to two members of the hated secret police PIDE, while at the same time denying the same to a young captain and hero of the 1974 revolution, Salgueiro Maia. Tavares protested so strongly in the newspaper *Público* that the officers brought 13 charges of violating the constitution of the press against him.

Had he lived to do so he would have enjoyed defending himself.

[illegible]

(From Our Own Correspondent)

BERLIN, June 27.

The Government of the Reich issues the following manifesto, addressed to "the German People" on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the signature of the Treaty of Peace at Versailles:

"To-day is a day of mourning. Ten years have passed since at Versailles the German peace negotiators were compelled to attach their signatures to a document which was a death warrant for the German people and of a genuine peace. For 10 years the treaty has weighed heavily upon all sections of the German nation, upon intellectual and upon economic life, upon the labours of the workmen and the labours of the peasant. In the name of the German people, we hereby on the part of all classes of the German nation have been necessary in order to treat at least the most serious effects of the Treaty of Versailles, which threatened the existence of our Fatherland and placed the economic prosperity of Europe in jeopardy."

"Germany signed the Treaty without thereby acknowledging that the German

There was none of Churchill's dictum "In victory, magnanimity" at Versailles. The terms were imposed, not negotiated, on a Germany humiliated and impoverished.

nation was the author of the War. This imputation leaves our people no peace of mind and disturbs international confidence. We know that we are at one with all Germans in the repudiation of the charge of Germany's sole responsibility for the War, and in the firm trust that the idea of a true peace, which can only be based, not upon dictation, but upon the unanimous and sincere conviction of free and equal nations, will prevail at the future."

The manifesto is signed by President von Hindenburg, Herr Hermann Müller, the Chancellor, and all the Cabinet Ministers.

The Government is of opinion that this brief

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INDEPENDENT EDUCATION

Should teaching be coeducational, single-sex — or a bit of both? The view from two schools which think they have the answer

The mix-and-match solution

David Tytler
reports from a
school which seems
to have found a
perfect compromise

While there are boys and girls who need educating, the argument will continue. Are they better off being taught separately in single-sex schools, or are their best interests served by being taught together throughout their school lives? And is the compromise of the coeducational sixth form the best way to prepare able boys and girls for mixed-sex universities?

One thing is certain: the argument will not be resolved by statistics — even though the girls' schools claim better results, at least up to GCSE and particularly in the sciences, than their coeducational counterparts. The statistics depend too much on the variable ability of the students; class sizes and catchment areas to provide any real guidance.

When it comes to sixth forms, particularly in the independent schools where many traditional boys' schools have opened their doors to girls, the fighting becomes particularly close. The educational argument is that, by the sixth form, the development of girls and boys has merged: before the age of 16 girls learn faster than boys but by that time the social difficulties have been ironed out and both sexes can gain from a mixed sixth form.

Cynics say the traditional boys' schools invited the girls in, at least in part, to make the books balance. Naturally, the charge is denied. In reality, the decision as to whether a school is coeducational or single-sex is based on parental preference, particularly at independent schools, where parents are likely to have a bigger voice in the school attended by their children than in the state sector. Many parents are driven to paying for education simply because their preferred state school is full.

There is some truth in the cliché that boys benefit from coeducation, while girls do better in single-sex schools. Boys learn the common courtesies, to mature and socialise, while girls do not have to fight either for attention or the use of the computer and can see women in positions of responsibility — their role models for the future.

The perfect compromise appears to have been found in Forest School, on the edge of Epping Forest in east London, one of the few schools in the country to run separate boys' and girls' schools on the same campus with overlapping staff and a joint sixth form. There is a mixed junior school, which also teaches boys and girls in separate classes, and a small boarding



Relaxing between lessons: girls at Forest School, one of the few to run separate boys' and girls' schools on the same campus

house of 30 boys aged 11 to 18. The governors are considering whether to open a senior boarding house for girls.

The organisation at Forest is complicated. Each school has its own head, all reporting to the warden. Lessons are separate. Some teachers, although employed by one of the schools, work in two and sometimes all of them, while the heads of departments are responsible for their subjects in all schools. Boys and girls at all levels mix in breaks and at lunchtime, in some sports, such as golf and rowing, and in drama, music and public speaking. They return to their own schools, even in the sixth form, for house contests and performances.

There are three separate speech days, all held on a Saturday, spreading from morning for the junior school, boys aged 7 to 13 and girls 7 to 11, to the afternoon for senior school, boys aged 13 to 18 and girls aged 11 to 18. In all its departments, Forest educates 1,250 pupils, insisting that it is single-sex from 7 to 16, but with all the social advantages of coeducation throughout the school.

Andrew Boggis joined Forest as warden in September from Eton where he was master in college, in charge of the college scholars. He says: "I am used to a big school, but here there is also an extraordinary variety, making it such a fascinat-

ing place. The small but flourishing boarding house is part and parcel of that."

Critics of Forest say that it is a halfway house, but Mr Boggis says: "We are quite open about this. In the same way as independent schools have to be seen to be independent of the state, so they have to be independent of each other."

This is particularly true of Forest.

'We have hit on a winning formula and, while not being complacent, we will stay on the winner'

which is in an area of high competition, being surrounded by a number of good schools, including state grammar schools, which offer a full variety of choices, from fully coeducational to single-sex, day and boarding. Senior day pupils at Forest pay £4,566 a year, while boarding fees are a competitive £7,923 with bursaries and scholarships available.

Mr Boggis will not be drawn on the philosophical arguments about coeducation but accepts that different parents want different things for their children — including many who want a single-sex educa-

tion for their daughters until they are 16. He says: "The governors hit on a winning formula and, while not being complacent, we will stay on the winner."

Colin Baker, the director of the senior school for boys aged 13-18, was at Forest when it was decided to introduce girls into the school in the late 1970s. He says: "There was mixed feeling at the time and I think it was originally intended to

have it any other way. There is no doubt that a coeducational sixth form is essential preparation for university, where students meet such a big social change."

Whatever the experts say, the pupils seem to like the arrangement at Forest. Victoria Harrison, 16, says: "Doing all the lessons separately gives you a chance to develop your own skills without competition. The sixth form is more competitive. I found it a bit awkward at the beginning but once we began lessons it was OK and it does help prepare you for university."

Susana Banerjee, 17, agrees: "The two years of coeducation are important. Most universities are mixed, so having been together in the sixth form means that it is not quite such a culture shock when you go to higher education."

While enjoying life at Forest, Jason Rix, 17, is one of the few who can see any advantage in full coeducation. "My mother chose Forest for my sister because it was single-sex up to 16, but my argument is that if you always had coeducation, you would get used to it. On balance, I think I would have preferred coeducation."

Dave Butler, 16, has no doubts. "Coeducation works in the sixth form, but in the lower forms boys are out to prove something to girls in lessons. You are more responsible in the sixth form and boys certainly benefit."

THE LESSON OF BEDALES

Above all, we are equals

Coeducation is the only honest, natural environment in which to educate children. Boys and girls of all ages, whether in home, classroom or playground, should grow up together on open, equal terms. Pupils from single-sex schools end up narrow, insecure and chauvinistic; those from coeducational schools, rounded, open and self-fulfilled, able to make their way through the uncharted jungle of adult relationships with confidence and honesty.

True or false? False. Nothing is ever that simple. And nothing is ever quite that easy, especially not in the world of education. No one system, however enlightened, can be best for all children. But those of us committed to (rather than merely involved in) coeducation share a belief that coeducated students of both sexes will receive a far richer and broader education — for the very presence of the other sex — than their single-sex counterparts.

Parents are natural coeducators. They rear boys and girls alongside each other in the best possible of environments — the family. Schools, and the teachers within them, can only hope to recreate something of the atmosphere of a good family. At their very best, of course, they can extend it and add a quality of their own. Adults involved in this process of seeing children through adolescence and out into the world must try to inspire them with the most important message of all — boys and girls are not the same, but they are, above all else, equal.

Coeducation is not about financial expediency, filling places, improving academic standards or even "civilising the boys", although some of these may result. It is a form of faith, shared and fostered at all levels of the community. It is also a risky business. Unless a coeducational environment can do this properly, without scrambling the message, then it would be better to have nothing to do with it.

Of course girls and boys are different. They are made differently, and at no time is this fact more daily visible and more acutely obvious than during adolescence. They think differently, often arriving at the same intellectual conclusions but via quite different routes. They frequently behave differently, as a cursory glance at their use of free time will testify. To suggest or pretend that they are the same is at best foolish and at worst harmful. It is these differences

which make the coeducational classroom such an exciting and rewarding place. It is also these differences which make it so important for them to grow — intellectually, socially, emotionally and spiritually — alongside each other, learning to understand each other, respect each other's point of view, share each other's feelings.

So wherein lies the risk? Not, surely, in those areas normally alluded to by adverse publicists obsessed with birth control or league tables. There can be little doubt that, in general, a boy or girl from a coeducational school is better placed to deal with all aspects of relationships, less likely to succumb to intense and unmanageable sexual entanglements, more used to valuing the opposite sex as friends. There can also be little doubt that, whatever the tables of exam results may try to imply, coeducated students of both sexes will be *intellectually*, if not always academically, at an advantage. Each has to much to learn from the other.

'They respect each other's point of view, share other's feelings'

The real risk lies elsewhere. Coeducation can only work if the messages given are clear and unequivocal, in particular the message that girls and boys, men and women are of equal worth. If one sex is numerically disadvantaged to it is obvious, if the ethos of the establishment favours one sex because of its history, traditions and heritage, if one of the sexes is seen to dominate the hierarchy, then that essential message is lost. Worse still, a message of a quite different sort can be given, and much damage done as a result. If teachers, the day-to-day role models within the school, are sending out confusing signals on this matter then these signals will not be lost on pupils.

If one accepts that the most important things a child learns while at school are rarely from a book or a syllabus, then it surely must follow that the environment in which that learning takes place is of inestimable importance. Those of us involved in coeducation should never forget this. We have it within our power to offer to the growing youngsters in our charge the most complete educational experience possible, and this we must do with sensitivity, courage and care.

ALISON WILLOCKS

● The author is the deputy head of Bedales School, which has been coeducational since 1897.

Why is school English in such a mess?

Because "it has met the forms of interference Mr Lamont noted in the handling of the economy," writes Professor Marilyn Butler, "short-termism, reactivism, government by party managers and publicists." The politics of English. This Friday in The TES.

OUT JULY 2

TES

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Lesson in salesmanship

As schools compete for more pupils, the hard sell to parents is at hand

When the parents of prospective pupils visit Aldenham School, near Elstree, north London, they will be given a glossy produced "press pack" highlighting its attractions. Pupils at surrounding prep schools receive newsletters telling them how their old friends who have moved on to Aldenham are faring. Masters at the same schools are likely to get phone calls from Aldenham teachers, extolling its virtues.

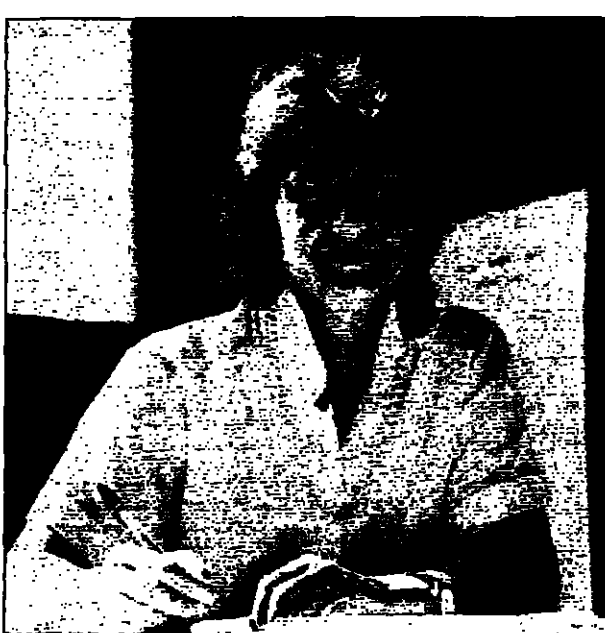
At the same time, Aldenham is pushing its image as a "small, caring and friendly" school and stressing its good record of "pastoral care" to the local community. It may not be the hard sell, but it is an indication of the way a growing number of independent schools are going.

They are fighting to keep their share of an increasingly competitive market. But there has also been a more interesting change. Three years ago, most schools which wanted to raise their profile were happy to leave it to the staff as part of their duties.

It was at best haphazard. Now schools increasingly are going for a sharper, professional edge by appointing marketing experts to the job.

Aldenham appointed its first marketing manager, Jane Britton, last August. While she was briefly a teacher, the bulk of her experience is in marketing, first with the Squash Rackets Association and later with Alan Pascoe Associates, where she promoted ice skating, swimming and athletics. Aldenham advertised the job in *Marketing Week*.

"My major aim is to increase the number of pupils, but one of my roles within that is to improve the image of the school in the local commun-



Market view: Jane Britton hones Aldenham's image

ity," Mrs Britton says. Her job includes a steady flow of "positive" press releases, the new *Aldenham News*, which is sent to prep school pupils, open days, the planned "press pack" for parents, and advertising where possible.

Former pupils, like Karren Brady (the school takes girls in the sixth form), now managing director of Birmingham City Football Club, and well known parents of current pupils are being wheeled out for uplifting quotes.

But there is also a definite "corporate" image — a phrase which slips her lips occasionally. All advertisements carry the strapline "small, caring, friendly". Soon all notepaper will have a standard heading,

with the school's black and gold logo in the corner.

The reaction to Mrs Britton in the school is one of acceptance. Her background as a teacher and her sporting prowess — she is the Surrey women's champion at squash and a county player for 12 years — make her welcome in the staffroom, while parents and governors are happy to see the school take a professional approach.

Michael Higginbottom, the headmaster, whose qualifications include an American MBA, says Mrs Britton's appointment has already brought marked benefits by clearly defining what the school stands for and where it is going.

"But perhaps more important has been the involvement of many of the teaching staff. This has meant a greater focus to what we are doing and a greater sense of purpose as we find ourselves pulling together as a team," he says.

There are areas where Mrs Britton will only tread gingerly. She gets the staff — her "area managers" — to telephone fellow teachers at prep schools as she believes they would "not take too kindly to a marketing manager ringing them up. It would be too much like a direct sell."

But this is likely to change. Declan O'Neill, who has been development director at Malvern Girls' College for two and a half years, thinks the day of the hard sell is at hand. "Schools have got no choice. It is not just the smaller schools but also some prestigious ones who might have thought they had a god-given right to pupils."

Mr O'Neill also detects two worrying aspects of marketing schools. He says: "I can see a time when the children are targeted, when advertisements are directed at the children rather than the parents, when schools will use images like a teddy bear as a selling point."

"You can also only package your product up to a certain point because once the parents step over the doorstep, they will see if you have created an illusion."

This is a sufficient worry for Mr O'Neill to have put in train the country's first association for school marketing managers. It has no formal name yet but is likely to be called the Independent School Development Directors' Association.

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Does the A level fail the test?



Testing times: the A level might be failing students like this

A trickle of official reports scrutinising the work of GCSE and A-level examination boards has cast new light on the row that traumatised parents, pupils and politicians last summer. The question raised by the bland words of government advisers is straightforward: did the future over GCSE standards shield attention from the gold standard of the education system, the A level?

For five days last August teenagers basked in the glory of the best yet GCSE results, indicating that most entrants achieved the equivalent of an O-level pass.

The exam, a Conservative invention designed to broaden access to recognised qualifications and improve motivation, was seen to be driving up standards. The annual rumbles of discontent from moody right-wing critics arguing "more means worse" were muted.

Then John Patten, the education secretary, created havoc. He published extracts of an inspectors' report which declared "limited confidence" in the results. It concluded gravely: "The evidence could point to a gradual erosion of standards since the introduction of the GCSE in 1989."

The upshot was chaos. Examination group, switchboards were jammed with enquiries about the worth of qualifications supposed to be a passport to the sixth-form or employment. Opponents seized the opportunity to demand GCSEs be scrapped. The Commons education select committee summoned Mr Patten for an explanation. In turn, he warned of a "public explosion of anger" unless swift action was taken.

Inevitably, the rhetoric lost its edge as hysteria subsided. The inspectors' report, when published in full, acknowledged its criticisms were neither new nor easy to solve. After consultation, Mr Patten responded in January with a compulsory code of practice to standardise marking and increase the accountability of the five GCSE boards in England and Wales. Independent assessors will monitor

Ben Preston raises a question mark over the examination which should be a passport to further education

The new system, with access to all stages of the examination process guaranteed to the Office of Standards in Education, the successor to Her Majesty's Inspectorate.

Last week, the uneasy peace was disturbed. The School Examinations and Assessment Council (Seac) published reports scrutinising the three core GCSE subjects of English, mathematics and science, together with an evaluation of A and AS levels. The contrast was compelling. Each GCSE report concluded that the evidence showed the examining groups were "on the whole providing successful examinations". Pointedly, there was no such blessing for A and AS levels.

The investigation into A and AS levels highlighted some widespread problems. The most serious of these was marking. The Seac study — based on 18 separate scrutiny reports covering 14 subjects and 48 syllabuses for examinations sat by more than 128,000 candidates last summer — found that only half of the guidelines issued to examiners to maintain common standards promoted accurate and consistent marking. Fifteen out of their 18 reports recommended action and detailed ways of improving marking schemes. The most frequent weakness was that schemes were over-prescriptive and did not make allowance for the range of acceptable answers from candidates. Some guidelines for examiners also tended to over-reward elementary skills, such as recall of relatively

simple factual details, at the expense of analysis and evaluation. "Similar marks were not always awarded for tasks of similar difficulty and in some cases tasks of different difficulty were awarded the same marks which closed down the opportunities for discriminating between candidates," noted the study.

Others were poorly written, or failed to give clear guidance about how examiners should assess work which exceeded the specified length or detail the accuracy required in results of calculations.

The study also highlighted concern that there were significant differences in what was demanded of candidates who chose different optional papers or questions. Procedures for dealing with poor spelling, syntax and presentation also varied.

The examiners remain phlegmatic under fire. George Turnbull, a spokesman for the Southern Examinations Group, one of the largest GCSE boards, likens reaction to such studies to that of first-time buyers receiving a surveyor's report on their dream house. Their initial horror at the catalogue of faults soon ebbs with the realisation that most are minor and the surveyor is mindful of any future comeback.

But the study has heightened fears that the quality of A levels might be eroding. Dr John Marks, a member of Seac, describes the findings as worrying and says action should be considered to safeguard standards. He argues: "A level is an examination of great importance and must be defended. Last summer it was necessary to order an inquiry and establish a mandatory code of practice for examination boards to tighten standards in GCSEs. Perhaps it is time to do the same for A levels."

Certainly, the evidence of rising pass rates throws doubt on the government mantra that A levels provide an immutable standard.

Ministers have already taken note. In December, they ordered an investigation of this summer's A-level examinations in the same way as for GCSEs last year.

Time to play fair at school

Put the fun back into sport — and we'll all win, says Ferne Baxter

What a summer for British sport: national football, cricket, tennis and — until Saturday's win against the All Blacks — rugby have sparked the annual (and predictable) lament of "why can't we produce more top players from our schools?"

In my view, our gloomy national record is because there is too much striving for excellence, rather than too little.

As league tables epitomise the academic competitiveness of schools, so PE departments are only too happy to enter the fray in a quest for cups, shields and top rankings in school, county and national competitions. The result is that those children who are good at sport are under pressure to achieve (and sustain) excellence at all costs, while those who are less skilful are turned away from any physical activity because of boredom and, worst of all, humiliation.

Every sport should start from the premise that it is for fun, for fitness and for life — and from this, success (modest or spectacular) is more likely to grow.

The main aim is to find a sport that every child will enjoy and carry on for pleasure into adulthood.

This means developing a varied programme which spans all the usual options of football, rugby, hockey and cricket as well as more individual preferences such as sailing, basketball, aerobics, archery or fencing.

Broadening the sporting curriculum enhances (rather than dilutes) standards, because pupils enjoy the variety and can find something they like and can do. They learn to use skills acquired in one sport to improve in another: squash, for example, helps mobility on the tennis court and gives the courage to turn your back on the net to retrieve a deep shot.

Once happy and confident with a sport, the desire to compete and succeed

usually follows naturally. At this stage, the influence of a school on those with real talent can be vital. Such pupils must be allowed to go as far as they can; for instance, it is tempting to keep a prodigious 13-year-old tennis player in the girls under-14 league, as she will undoubtedly win, so heaping glory and titles on herself and the school. Better, however, to put her in the next age group, where she may not win, but will have more challenging games and will learn more.

Likewise, it is important to recognise the pressures put on young players, teaching them to hold back when it's getting too much. The hardest part is often persuading them and their parents that taking time out is the best way to ensure they stay interested in the long term.

This pressure can come from outside, but it can also build up from within the school, especially with older children facing examinations. Schools must be flexible, allowing room for sport and study. Senior players at my school are often excused formal games lessons to reflect the amount of time they will be spending on the field after school.

We have a school full of children who, almost without exception, enjoy and actively look forward to at least one sport. Most will continue this after they leave school, for fun, for exercise, to meet people and, occasionally, as the basis for a career. We have some girls with considerable talent: such as the 26 members of county squads, in sports as diverse as lacrosse, badminton, netball, cross-country, tennis and athletics. One or two of these might continue to the very top of their chosen sport.

And if they do, they will have done it because they like it — and enjoyment is the best motive I know for hard work, dedication and, ultimately, achievement.

Ferne Baxter is head of physical education at The Godolphin School.

VIEWPOINT



Losing out again: Chris Bailey and Graham Gooch

Is Britain putting enough emphasis on career guidance? John O'Leary looks at the latest developments

Finding maps to the future

Careers guidance, once the Cinderella of the education service, is suddenly the subject of unprecedented attention. The shape of the system is about to alter radically, but last week business leaders called for further change and this week will see a new prescription.

With skills shortages persisting despite continuing high unemployment, the need for informed careers advice has been highlighted in successive reports. Record demand for places at this week's Schools Fair and next week's London Graduate Recruitment Fair, both sponsored by The Times, underlines the wider concern. Legislation will soon remove the local authority monopoly on the careers service, putting contracts out to tender. At the same time, the curriculum review commissioned by John Patten, the education secretary, will revive debate on schools' careers advice.

Business leaders, represented by the CBI, want ministers to give the subject more competition, using vouchers as the currency for a new market in

guidance. They are also backing a National Council for Careers and Educational Guidance, which will be chaired by Sir Christopher Ball, the director of learning at the Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce. Ministers have given their approval for the establishment of a council, but will not be making it a government body.

Howard Davies, the CBI's director general, launching a report on the subject at a conference in London last week, said research had shown that a mismatch between skills and jobs was responsible for up to a third of all unemployment. "People can now expect to change careers four or five times during their working lives. This means that all individuals, whatever their age or social background, need to have access to first-class careers guidance, not just when leaving school or college, but throughout their working lives."

The use of credits, allowing individuals to choose where to seek careers guidance, would ensure that public money was directed to services actually provided, rather than supporting bureaucracy. The market could be controlled locally by training and enterprise councils.

The CBI's report, *A Credit to Your Career*, also calls for careers education to become part of the national curriculum, rather than a "cross-curricular" theme. Schools would be given guidelines on the content of lessons to take place over the last three years of compulsory schooling.

Many of the same developments are proposed in this week's report for the National Commission on Education, which is summarised below.

Valerie Bayliss, the head of youth and education policy at the employment department, said that ministers would be reluctant to impose a single model of careers guidance. Local services were already coping with enormous changes, both from the impending reform and the in-



Seeking guidance: a student receives advice at the Schools' Fair last year

creased numbers staying on in education beyond 16.

● The Schools' Fair runs from Wednesday to Friday at the Business Design Centre, in Islington, north London. Open 10am to 4.30pm. A late session has been provided for parents from 6 to 8.30pm on Wednesday. The London Graduate Recruitment Fair will follow at the same venue on July 6, 7 and 8.

A summary of the National Commission on Education's report

CAREER choices determine how we spend a major part of our lives and much of the contribution we make to the society in which we live. They also determine, to a significant degree, the kind of people we become.

In the past, the role of guidance services has been limited. Choices have been determined largely by social forces and by selective processes within education and employment. Guidance services have tended to be a kind of switch mechanism at the transition from education to employment. They have accordingly tended to be marginal in position and low in status.

Now the situation may be changing. Guidance is higher on the public-policy agenda than ever before. This is linked to more profound changes within education and employment which are reflected in the shift of attention to the concepts of learning and of work. Learning takes place in many settings, not just educational ones.

The concept of "career" is also being redefined. Increasingly, it is viewed in broad terms, not as a structure (for example, a career in engineering) but as a process, to describe an individual's lifetime of learning and work. This view changes radically the role of careers guidance. If "career" is a process owned by the individual, just as "learn-

ing" and "work" are, then guidance needs to be ongoing, and central not peripheral. The case for radical improvements in guidance provision is justified by the benefits it brings to individuals and to social equity. But it is further supported by evidence concerning its public economic benefits.

What is needed is a national strategy on guidance for learning and work with three facets:

- Careers education and guidance as an integral part of both of schools and of post-compulsory education.
- Career development as an integral part of all employment provision.
- Adult access to neutral careers guidance.

Careers education and guidance should occupy a pivotal role in schools. Careers education and guidance are officially defined within the National Curriculum as constituting one component of five cross-curricular themes, from age 5 to age 16. These themes are, however, structurally weak and difficult to implement, and can erode specialist provi-

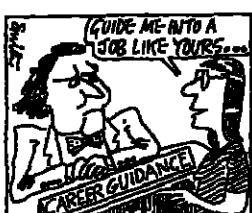
sion without putting anything of substance in its place.

The crucial support services from LEA advisers and the like are beginning to disintegrate; and the Technical and Vocational Education Initiative (TVEI), the contractual nature of which is largely responsible for keeping careers work actively on schools' agendas, has now passed its resource peak and is due to end in 1997.

What is needed is a clear statement of entitlement, visible to pupils and parents, delivered through a careers coordinator and evaluated as part of school inspections.

Curriculum provision should start from the age of five to develop pupils' concepts of work roles and to counteract restrictive stereotypes. Specific time-tabled provision should start at the age of 13 at the latest.

Every secondary school should have a careers coordinator. It is a crucial role. Coordinators need to be of sufficient seniority to carry out their managerial role, and to be adequately trained. A re-



EDUCATION

EXETER COLLEGE OXFORD The Rectorship

The Fellows are proceeding to the election of a Head of the College in succession to the late Sir Richard Norman. Any suitably qualified person, of either sex, who wishes to be considered or would like to suggest the name of someone who might be considered for this position, is invited to write in confidence to the Sub-Rector, Exeter College, Oxford OX1 3DP, preferably by 26 July 1993. The College's choice will not necessarily be limited to those whose names come forward in this way.

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■ "A year ago, the international circus at Rio put environmental issues on the front page. Now they are lucky to be published at all." Sir Crispin Tickell argues in *The Times* Essay that the environment should penetrate the heart of politics. In particular, he calls for measures to preserve the diversity of the human environment. _____ Page 7

The latest reports of Bosnian Serb atrocities against refugees have failed to stir reaction in an international community to whom such horrors have become commonplace..... Page 11

Learner driver Lorraine James ? testing the controls of a 1938 MG Roadster at a motoring pageant in Bromley, Kent, yesterday

**in doubt by hitting 191
for Hampshire
against Australia**

former president
Gerald Ford and
Ronald Reagan

year is a treat, but an
opens a five-week Lon

...
ready for two? The Kirov
in season

■ One great Russian ballet company in Britain in a year is a treat, but are we ready for two? The Kirov opens a five-week London season

The ugliest features of an age are unlikely to be obvious. If they were obvious they would have been remedied. True and lasting ugliness is more likely to be an insidious thing, escaping conscious notice, spoiling the world secretly. I have two candidates for secret ugliness in modern Britain. Page 14

France and Japan want to lend Vietnam \$140 million to pay off the old Saigon regime's debts to the IMF. It's a constructive idea. But it has been held up by stubborn opposition from Washington. Even if he has to take some political heat for it, Mr. Clinton should do the right thing and end American opposition to the loans.

ACROSS

- 1 A sultan would have one in fine leather (5).
- 4 Frank's condemnation of Conservative policies? (9)
- 9 A teller — but not in a bank (9).
- 10 Walk quietly behind an old vehicle (5).
- 11 Making such a suit a man needs expertise (9).
- 12 Riders do badly, causing complaint (8).
- 13 This deals with 111 (10).
- 16 Common-sense denial by American (4).
- 19 Opposed to cutting assistance, though keen enough (4).
- 20 The medico increased the head's gloom (10).
- 22 Agreeable person a fool put down (8).
- 23 Walk out to impress (6).
- 26 Don't take a holiday (5).
- 27 The way the pig had swallowed

a mixture of sawdust and wood-chips! (9).

- 28 Tears madly round, certain to get prizes (9).
- 29 Half of them tip — that's better! (5).

DOWN

- 1 Dance, taking drink after drink after drink (3-3-3).
- 2 She's 51 and way-out (5).
- 3 "A woman move is like a — troubled" (*T. of Shrew*) (8).
- 4 Avoid coarse material (4).
- 5 Fighting heavyweight from a Northern town (10).
- 6 Soldiers mounted it on obtaining a proper allowance (6).
- 7 The little Greek is an ode-composer — so impressive (9).
- 8 Get less light (5).
- 13 On the whole, a lot failed to understand the girl (10).

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Lloyd's chief asked to join new rescue vehicle

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THE TIMES

2

MONDAY JUNE 28 1993

Sweetest drop adds to elation in Lions' moment of triumph

There may be sweeter feelings but, just now in New Zealand, there is a deep sense of elation among the Lions. Everything we had dreamed about, planned for, rehearsed so much that it had become painful waiting for the game to arrive, came true.

All last week, we were under enormous pressure, knowing that defeat in Wellington would mean an horrendous last week of the tour before travelling home. So when the whistle blew, there was relief, but primarily immense satisfaction that the job had been so well done.

Many of these big games are played in the mind. You approach them, knowing the confidence gained from the achievements of earlier games. Several members of the squad, including me, had not

played in New Zealand before this tour and no side has ever faced such a demanding itinerary. You have seen the All Blacks play and you know their methods but, until you have felt the intensity of their domestic game, you cannot know what awaits you.

But we arrived at Athletic Park on Saturday believing we had nothing to fear if we got our organisation right. Although we lost the first international, we discovered we could live with the All Blacks, and the Auckland game, even though we lost again, reinforced that belief. Our fate was in our own hands.

It was not like Australia in 1989, when we had been thrashed in the first international. On this tour, the Lions have played better against



Rob Andrew, the British Isles stand-off half, reflects on a series squared and a tour of New Zealand reprieved

better-quality opponents and we knew we could win control. We knew we had the firepower to combat New Zealand, provided we put it together for 80 minutes.

We fielded the best-balanced pack of the tour and, on the day, our defence was terrific. Provided we made our tackles, we knew they did not have the pace to get around us. They are all strong players, and tackling Tuigamala is like trying to halt a charging elephant, but whenever we have lost badly on this tour it has been because that

determination to make the first tackle, then get up and make the next, has been missing.

But on Saturday, there was a lot of communication, we were able to get numbers around the ball and the general organisation probably surprised New Zealanders. That organisation comprises a lot of thought and concentration, covering for other people and being alert for numbers left and right.

It is all made easier if you are defending a lead. If the wind is in your favour, as it was in ours in the

second half, it is doubly difficult for your opponents because each kick can travel an extra 20 or 30 yards. You could tell how tricky it was by the way that Grant Fox missed two penalties into the wind, as did Gavin Hastings.

But one of the outstanding features of our first half was that we gave Fox no chances to kick for goal. It was a blow to concede the try but we still felt we were playing well and that we had the greater control — though I was relieved when Hastings kicked his third attempt.

When we had the lineout just before half-time, I made up my mind to try a dropped goal if we won the ball because I knew that if we could turn round with the lead, it would be a tremendous psycho-

logical advantage. I hit it quite hard into the wind and it was a sweet moment when it went over.

It was a super pass from Dewi Morris, too. Dewi has his critics, as we all have, but he has worked at his game and the time spent in training showed on Saturday with probably his best international.

That is the benefit of touring: you can work on your skills. On the day before the game, I finished training, as I usually do, by place-kicking for goal. The boys were in a hurry to be off so I tried a couple of dropped goals, one off the left foot, one off the right, to finish up. Both of them sailed over and Ian McGeechan said: "Right, that'll do." It did.



British Isles triumph, page 29

Morris: pass master

Foster the outsider as interest centres on Becker

By STUART JONES, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN has had its week of fun and jingoistic fervour at Wimbledon. For all the delight generated by home representatives playing well above themselves, only Andrew Foster is still in contention and he has been consigned to taking part in a side-show.

Other than Jeremy Bates, no Briton has participated in the second week of the tournament for more than a decade. Yet Foster's reward is to be shuffled off to a distant corner of the All England Club.

Rather than performing in front of 6,508 spectators on No 1 court, instead of, say, Jim Courier and Wayne Ferreira, Foster will play on court 14, where the capacity is about 1,600. It is not as if his opponent, Pete Sampras, is insignificant either. He is the top seed.

By comparison with much of today's programme, though, their match promises to be one of the duller. That is not Foster's fault. On the biggest day of his career, he happens to be competing

from the other fourth round match on the centre court and potentially the most riveting of the day?

It features Andre Agassi, the defending champion, against Richard Krajicek, the eighth seed against the ninth; one of the best returners against one of the most powerful servers: flamboyance against power. Nobody will be reading or sleeping while they are battling for the right to meet Sampras in the quarter-final.

Becker, assuming that he realises expectations, will probably be reunited there with his German compatriot, Michael Stich. The winner at Wimbledon in 1991 and at Queen's a fortnight ago, he should beat Petr Korda, but, ominously, they are to meet on court two, the legendary graveyard of champions.

All of the surprises so far have been contained within the bottom half of a draw which has thus become even more favourable for Stefan Edberg. Ivan Lendl and Andrei Medvedev had already been removed from his path and, on Saturday, two other seeds were knocked out.

Goran Ivanisevic had been walking along the edge of defeat, notably against Chris Bailey, and he flirted with disqualification as well before finally giving up. He received a warning and was penalised a point before conceding the fifth set 6-0 to Todd Martin.

By contrast, Michael Chang was the epitome of defiance as he recovered from a two-set deficit and hung on for almost 4½ hours before yielding to David Wheaton. He and Martin, giant killers whose combined height is two inches short of 13 feet, meet.

Edberg, though he did beat Chris Wilkinson (who has climbed above Bates in the world rankings), admitted that he was not at his best. Erratic and tentative, he was broken half a dozen times, but should be able to refine his game against Richard Matsuzewski.

The progress of the top women's seeds has been predictably serene with one exception. The defeat of Mary Joe Fernandez by Zina Garrison-Jackson, her doubles partner and the beaten finalist two years ago, was not wholly surprising, but the score was embarrassing, the fifth seed won only one game.

Meredith McGrath, a qualifier, and Nathalie Tauziat, the No 16 seed, will do well to improve on that today. They play, respectively, Steffi Graf and Martina Navratilova.

Foster satisfied, page 25
Simon Barnes page 25
Order of play, page 24



Hitting out: Smith strikes a boundary during his innings of 191 against the Australians at Southampton

Smith poses selection dilemma

By IVO TENNANT

WHO would be a selector? At the moment, just about everybody since just about everybody has an opinion on what is afflicting English cricket. Doubtless taking due heed of opportune individual performances over the weekend, England's committee convened last night not only to pick a team for the third Test at Trent Bridge but to find ways of bracing themselves for the next round of criticism of their selections.

Take Robin Smith. Do they give him another chance of the basis of his innings of 191 against the Australians yesterday, or do they omit him because of his weaknesses against spin? Should they — as their opponents might well do in the same desperate circumstances — select John Crawley, given his undoubted talent which manifested itself in an

innings of 187 off 304 balls for Cambridge University against Sussex? Should he even be considered when he is supposed to be leading Cambridge in the University match?

Even then, the committee cannot have the side they want. Keith Fletcher, the England manager, said yesterday that Alan Igglesden — "the most consistent swing bowler in England since he can obtain movement whatever the conditions" — would definitely have been chosen for Trent Bridge, just as he would have been in England's side for the first Test at Old Trafford. Alas, he is injured, which is the story of his career. The day after treating Igglesden during Kent's match at Headingley, Yorkshire's physio told Fletcher the player's back strain had hardly improved. Martin McCague, who could have been chosen in his place, has wrenched a shoulder.

So to whom does the committee turn? To Nasser Hussain, who has just made a century under the eye of Graham Gooch? To Hugh Morris, who made two? To Ian Botham, whose sense of timing in scoring his first century of the season was quite uncanny? All that is certain is that the chances of everyone agreeing with their selections are ... well, about as good as England beating Australia.

□ Glamorgan are believed to be lining up Otis Gibson, the Barbados all-rounder, to replace Viv Richards as their overseas player next season. Richards, 41, is in his final season for Glamorgan. The Welsh county have received favourable reports about Gibson, a pace bowler and hard-hitting batsman who played for Border in South Africa last season. An announcement is expected on Thursday.

Australians punished, page 27

Cooke content with referee

FROM DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT
IN HAMILTON, NEW ZEALAND

PATRICK Robin, the French referee who took charge of the rugby union international in which the British Isles beat New Zealand 20-7 in Wellington on Saturday, was praised by the Lions management for his handling of the match.

Geoff Cooke, the Lions manager, said Robin, who will also referee the deciding match in the series in Auckland next Saturday, gave the "best performance of any official we have come across on this tour".

That the victors should appreciate the control of Robin, 45, a hospital psychologist, is hardly surprising. But before the tour began, Laurie Mains, the New Zealand coach, shared their enthusiasm, as Robin handled two of the Bledisloe Cup matches against Australia last year.

Mains was muted on the subject on Saturday, though he was clearly unhappy that his backs had been wrapped up by the Lions defence so frequently. However, as his post-match reaction was that the lion's share of possession went to the Lions, when the figures show the All Blacks came back in the second half to share the lineout and domi-

nate the loose ball, he may be better advised to look at his own players' lack of tactical awareness.

Robin's technique had been studied on video by the Lions before the match and Cooke suggested that only now were New Zealanders realising that the new laws, for which they have expressed so much enthusiasm, are not always beneficial.

The New Zealand management has postponed selecting the side to play in Auckland for 24 hours. New Zealand made three changes and a positional switch after winning the first match of the series in Christchurch and, now they have suffered their heaviest defeat against another country since losing to Australia and France in 1986, may contemplate several more.

Will Carling, the England captain, will lead the Lions for the first time in the penultimate match, in Hamilton tomorrow, against Waikato, the provincial champions. Although they have lost four of their seven games this season, Waikato, who include three internationals, will pose problems for the Lions.

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THE LOAN CORPORATION

Battling Britons enjoy joke at critics' expense



SIMON BARNES
At Wimbledon

Losers at Wimbledon are like mothers-in-law: subjects best avoided by a humorist who aspires to subtlety. There is nothing new to be said on either of these weary themes.

We have all of us worn the Wimbledon joke threadbare over the years: there are no new laughs to be had at the expense of the courageous agonies of Durr and her like. As for the men, we have grown hardened to the apologetic, the posturing and the preposterous. Get them out of the way on the first couple of days and then we can concentrate on the serious business of foreigners knocking hell out of each other.

So what has gone wrong? Five British men — MacLagan, Petchey, Foster, Bailey and

Wilkinson — through to the second round for the first time since 1977; a heroic match in the gloaming as Chris Bailey fought his glorious losing battle against mighty Goran; and Andrew Foster through to the last 16, playing the No 1 seed, Pete Sampras, today.

Foster's finest moment so far has been his well-simulated astonishment when asked if he felt sorry for his opponent, Andrei Olhovskiy, who was forced to drop out of their third-round match with illness. Tennis, like all games, is supposed to be cruel — that is what victory means.

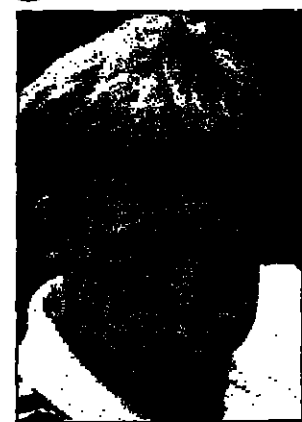
But if the British effort could be summed up in a single moment, it was in a point played as Chris Wilkinson took on Stefan Edberg on centre court on Saturday.

Becker's diving block-volley is an integral part of his game but Wilkinson invented a new diving stroke for the occasion. It is the diving flicked lob played to a lost cause. He produced it twice in a row to a pair of sure-fire Edberg winners, the second of which the surprised Swede smashed blindly into the net.

Wilkinson broke Edberg's serve six times. Anyone who does that is entitled to expect a considerable win. But Wilkinson himself was broken nine times. He lost but showed everything that losing Brits have traditionally lacked: mainly, a taste for strife.

Naturally, Wilkinson was asked if he felt that he was "playing for his country" in front of the joyous oobahs of the centre court. "I'm playing for myself," he said firmly. But it is not a mere coincidence that five British men have won matches at Wimbledon, that five Brits have refused to be overwhelmed by the place and its awful legacy of mother-in-law jokes.

There has been a knock-on



Four of the men behind the British revival at Wimbledon this year: Bailey, left, Petchey, Wilkinson and Foster

effect: well, if he can do it, why can't I? There has been a contagion of resolve. At second service and break-point down, a British tennis player is supposed to flap wearily into the net to a chorus of groans. But at this Wimbledon, the nerve has been held and often enough, so has the service. At match-point, Brit after Brit has been brave enough to win. "It was a pretty tight match, as you saw," Wilkinson, un-

bowed in defeat, said. "Clearly, I need to work at various sides of my game. But I don't need to be scared of anyone."

Brave words and all very well as far as they go. "I really enjoyed it out there," Advice to Foster: "Get out there. Enjoy every minute of it. He can win. We are not there to make up the numbers. I could have won today. Now we must go on from here and get better and better."

Aye, there's the rub. We have seen plenty of false downs in tennis and, after all, nothing changes as fast as sport. In 1990, the England cricket team beat West Indies in the West Indies and the England football team came within a penalty kick of the World Cup final.

Now both teams are trapped in the mire of defeatism. Wimbledon lovers know this Eeyore-like place — "rather

boggy and sad" — in immense detail. For the players themselves, Wimbledon was an annual torment of false promise and unrealistic expectation: finally, of bitter and dreadful jokes. Eeyore has been the presiding spirit of British tennis for years.

Things have come to a pretty pass when we must look to British male tennis players to lift English morale but the lads have done great. "British

tennis players mean business," Wilkinson said. For you can only do so much with coaching and money and youth projects. Ultimately, tennis comes down to a question of nerve, of the appetite for strife. That is what makes the best tennis compelling theatre.

And that is not a thing for coaches and administrators: it is a private matter. It is a part of the player himself. It is private but it is also, as we have seen, contagious. It is possible that the Wimbledon Five have established the beginnings of a new tradition: a tradition of hunger, a tradition of success, a tradition of self-belief in the face of sporting adversity. It is equally possible that this was a flash in the pan, a week to savour in a decade of hopelessness. We shall see.

If Jim Courier were a baseball star, he said he would be "a Charlie Hustle, down-in-the-dirt kind of player". Wilkinson, rolling about all over centre court in a competitive frenzy, had something of that. And it is high time British tennis went hustling.

Bright side to Bailey's defeat

CHRIS Bailey lost the match against Goran Ivanisevic last Thursday but, on Saturday, he won the battle. After the match, he attributed his success to his coach, Nick Carr, but admitted their future together was insecure as the Lawn Tennis Association funding, paying Carr's expenses, had dried up.

On Saturday, however, Bailey signed a two-year sponsorship deal with Schweppes and a one-year contract with Chrysalis, which could be worth up to £100,000, enabling him to employ Carr for the foreseeable future.

All the rage

With stardom comes bureaucracy. Where once Andrew Foster was happy to talk to anyone, now all requests have to be channelled through his coach, Nick Brown, and from there to a Wimbledon official. Nineteen hours after the first application, officialdom finally relented and allowed Foster to talk to the press at a hotel in west Wimbledon yesterday morning. To avoid the rush, bookings are already being made just in case he wins another round.

Cover blown

John McEnroe shuffled into work as a commentator for NBC clad in black baseball cap, black wrap-around sunglasses, black tracksuit, with collar rolled up to his ears, and black sneakers. Only the gatekeeper at Aorangi Park penetrated the disguise and attempted conversation with the three-time champion. His efforts were repelled with a snarl as the man in black vanished into the crowd. In a changing world, it is good to see some things stay the same.



A fair cop

Police vigilance is fierce around Wimbledon as one British journalist, who left an unexploded press bag in the car park overnight, discovered. His fine involved the buying of the police label badges mimed especially for the championships and sold every year for charity. The police raised £4,300 in the first week. One wonders how much came from the press.

Quote of day

Martina Navratilova, on being asked, after Chris Evert's revelations that a man had once broken into her house and lived in her wardrobe for three days, whether she had suffered any similar problems. "There are no men in my cupboard."



Man in the middle: Parry makes his point to Oremans, of Holland, left, and Pizzichini, of Italy, before the third-round match on Wimbledon's court three on Saturday

Calling the shots according to Parry's law

It is well known in the trade that a match in the company of the umpire, John Parry, will be eventful one way or another. He made history once on centre court by temporarily losing track of the score and forgetting to make Vitas Gerulaitis and Sammy Giammalva change ends. There was no legislation to say what should happen next, so the players missed their change-over and a new rule was drafted by the International Tennis Federation (ITF). Parry's Law. Last Friday, the coin he spun before the start of the Edberg v Mansdorf match landed on its edge. Whoever gave him John McEnroe to umpire on his senior umpiring debut must have known something.

At the age of 53 and with just the women's doubles to officiate before he completes his full set of Wimbledon finals, Parry is past the time when he is self-conscious about his errors. He would retract the overrule on match point that momentarily deprived Andre Agassi of victory over Boris Becker last year, but does not lie awake worrying about it. At the time, Agassi was furious. "Never, ever overrule on match point," he told Parry. But, as ever from the inside, it was not quite that simple. "You don't have time to think. Ah, it's a big point." An overrule is instinctive. It has to be. If you delay, the moment has gone.

On Saturday, Parry was allotted the gentlest of tasks by the head referee, Roger Smith, an airline pilot in his spare time. It was a women's

third-round match between Gloria Pizzichini, of Italy, and Miriam Oremans, of Holland. No history of violence on either side. Parry knew neither, but had checked in the women's media guide to put faces to the names. "Not a good start to muddle up their names," he said.

The day's hot potato, Goran Ivanisevic v Todd Martin on the notoriously explosive court two, was handed to the experienced Australian, Wayne McKewen. In choosing umpires, Smith, in consultation with Alan Mills, uses a mixture of instinct, past form and common sense.

Sometimes, before the tournament, an umpire will list the players he would rather not umpire. More rarely, play-



Andrew Longmore looks at the pitfalls of being an umpire in the heat of battle at Wimbledon

ers request not to be umpired by a particular official. Usually, an umpire will not do one of the top seeds — or the more volatile characters — twice in a tournament. "Even if their match had gone smoothly, there might have been something in the players' mind which makes him say: 'Oh no, not him again,'" Smith said. "It's a matter of common sense. There is no point in inviting trouble, particularly if there is an obvious clash between the player and the official."

The advent of professional umpires on the ATP tour and in the ITF has prompted a shift in the old-fashioned "them-and-us" attitude that marked McEnroe's early confrontations with Mike Gibson at Wimbledon. Though it does not stop the players from trying the odd trick nor modifies the language in the heat of battle, a tacit understanding that they are both in the same trade benefits player and official. Smith has a pool of experienced professionals to call on to handle potential

troublemakers or what the umpires term "aggressive players". The code of conduct has helped. Players know where they stand.

The only danger for Parry on court three was being reduced to a state of torpor by a sultry afternoon and some stuffy women's tennis that would have done little to change the controversial views of the watching Richard Krajicek. The third game lasted for 12 deuces. At the end of it, Parry had to warn the Italian woman for being coached on court, gently reminding her that if the man in the pink hat — "I didn't know what the Italian was for pink hat and her English was not brilliant" — kept up the dialogue, she would lose a point.

One gesture in the direction of the coach was enough. Miss Pizzichini lost 6-4, 6-4 to the bigger, stronger, more aggressive Dutch girl.

Another routine day, far removed from one of Parry's sourdest memories, a foul clash between John McEnroe and Jimmy Connors in the final of the Benson and Hedges tournament at Wembley. The two Americans worked on naked intimidation, often in the knowledge that neither sponsor nor promoter would countenance their ejection and Parry, after umpiring McEnroe's semi-final brilliantly, had a nightmare afternoon.

But persuasion can take many forms. A mere look of query from the proper Miss Evert had the same telling effect as a volley of abuse from McEnroe. Lendl is a master at the art of working umpires, gently undermining their confidence to influence the next decision. Umpires must be strong, yet sensitive to the emotional ebb and flow. Just as much as the players, the best have the ability to raise their levels of concentration on the big points.

"The adrenaline flows a little more freely, but the top umpires are the ones who stay relaxed. With a big match on centre court, the pressures can be quite awesome and you mustn't rush things, because the players will soon find out if you are jumpy. If you're going to make a mistake, make it on a smaller point," Parry said. "Better still, don't make one at all." Except that even umpires are human.

Foster satisfied with outside court

ANDREW Foster, the only Briton left in the singles at Wimbledon, insists that playing on an outside court, rather than on the centre court, will work to his advantage in his fourth-round match against Pete Sampras, the No 1 seed, today (John Goodbody writes).

Foster, who received a wild card for this tournament and is ranked 332, has surprisingly not had his match scheduled on the centre court, despite the tremendous interest in the match to settle who will play in the quarter-finals.

The British No 5 said: "For the best chance of beating Sampras, it will work better to play on court 14. I am more at home there." The court holds 1,816 people, compared to more than 13,000 on centre court and 7,326 on court one.

"I was looking forward to playing on the centre but, if I did, it is more than likely it would take three or four games to

get into the atmosphere," he said. "At least on court 14, I can get into the first point and start the match from the beginning. He [Sampras] will feel a lot of pressure. The crowd will be noisy, which will help me."

Alan Mills, the Wimbledon referee, accepted that people were surprised at the scheduling. "However, the order of play committee has weighed up everything and feels that the decision is justified. It is a jigsaw puzzle and this was a very difficult match to put into context."

Although the BBC has camera positions at court 14, the fourth biggest at the All-England Club, it does not have the resources to cover the tie as well as on centre court or court one.

The centre court pits Boris Becker against Henri Leconte, Andre Agassi against Richard Krajicek and Arantxa Sanchez Vicario against Helena Sukova.

Court one features Anke Huber versus Gabriela Sabatini and Martina Navratilova meeting Nathalie Tauziat.

If Foster, 21, from Stoke, defeats the American, he will become the first British man to reach the quarter-finals since 1973, when Roger Taylor eventually went out in the semi-finals.

Foster said: "It is totally different from anything I have come across before. I have tried to keep my feet on the ground and stay focused on what I am trying to do. I am happy about how far I have got already so I can go and enjoy the match."

Foster says he will not waste the chances that Chris Wilkinson, another Briton, allowed to slip away on Saturday against Stefan Edberg, the No 2 seed.

Wilkinson broke Edberg's serve six times but still lost in straight sets. Foster declared: "If I break serve that number of times, I am definitely going to win."

RESULTS

Men's singles

Winner £305,000
Runner-up £152,000
Holder: A Agassi (US)

Third round

J COURIER (US) bt J Stoltenberg (Aus), 6-4, 7-6, 3-6, 6-4.
C Paine (Fr) bt K Carlsen (Den), 6-4, 6-3.
D Wheaton (US) bt M CHANG (US), 6-4, 6-4, 5-7, 4-6, 6-4.
W Masur (Aus) bt A Boetsch (Fr), 6-3, 6-4, 6-7, 6-7, 6-4.
R Matuszewski (US) bt J Frana (Arg), 6-4, 3-6, 6-2, 6-2.
T Martin (US) bt G MANISEVIC (Cro), 2-6, 7-6, 6-7, 7-5, 6-0.
S EDBERG (Swe) bt C Wilkinson (GB), 6-4, 7-5, 6-3.
W FERREIRA (SA) bt H Holm (Swe), 6-4, 6-3, 7-6.

Women's singles

Winner £275,000
Runner-up £137,500
Holder: S Graf (Ger)

Third round

G SABATINI (Arg) bt N Medvedeva (Ukr), 6-1, 2-6, 6-4.
M Oremans (Hol) bt G Pizzichini (It), 6-1, 6-4.
A HUBER (Ger) bt F Label (Arg), 6-4, 6-3.
N TAUZIAT (Fr) bt L Davenport (US), 6-3, 7-5.
Z Garrison-Jackson (US) bt M J FERNANDEZ (US), 6-0, 6-1.
J NOVOTNA (Cz Rep) bt M Werdel (US), 6-3, 6-1.
N Zvereva (Belarus) bt S Appelmanns (Bel), 6-3, 6-4.
M NAVRATILOVA (US) bt P Hy (Can), 6-1, 6-0.

Women's doubles

Holders: G Fernandez (US) and N Zvereva (Belarus)

Second round

G FERNANDEZ (US) and N ZVEREVA (Belarus) bt C MacGregor and S Stafford (US), 6-4, 1-6, 6-3.
J HETHERINGTON (Can) and K RINALDI (US) bt S McCarthy and K Po (US), 6-2, 6-2.
M MALEEVA (Bul) and M MALEEVA-FRAGNIERE (Swe) bt J Durr (GB) and C Sule (Fr), 6-1, 6-3.
R McQuillen (Aus) and C Rowk (Ger) bt E MANIKOVA (Russ) and L Meskhi (Geo), 6-3, 6-2.

Third round

M Oremans and C M Vis (Hol) level with J Paul (Aus) and J Richardson (NZ), 4-6, 7-6.
P SHRIVER (US) and P SMYLYE (Aus) bt K Haboudova (Cz Rep) and N Mune-Jagerman (Hol), 6-0, 2-6, 6-3.
L NEILAND (Lat) and J NOVOTNA (Cz Rep) bt L Gildemeister (Foru) and A Temesvari (Hun), 6-2, 6-2.
A SANCHEZ VICARIO (Sp) and H SUKOVA (Cz Rep) bt M Jaggard-Lai and K Radford (Aus), 6-4, 6-3.

Mixed doubles

Holders: C Suk (Cz) and Mrs L Sevcenko-Nelander (Lat)

First round

R Rensberg and B Napselen (US) bt M JENSEN (US) and B SCHULTZ (Hol), 7-6, 6-3, 7-5.
T NISSEN and M BOLLEGRAAF bt T Middleton and A Henrickson (US), 6-3, 6-4.
M J Bates and J Durr (GB) bt G VAN EMBEL/IGH (US) and H SUKOVA (Cz Rep), 7-5, 6-4.
T WOODBRIDGE (Aus) and A SAN- CHEZ VICARIO (Sp) bt J Frana and F Label (Arg), 6-3, 6-3.
B Shetton and L McNeil (US) bt M Bauer (US) and K Kachewani (Ger), 6-3, 7-5.
L JENSEN and M McGRATH (US) bt V Plegl (Cz Rep) and R Zubekova (Slovak), 7-6, 6-3.
L Pimek (Bel) and S Collins (US) bt N Perakovic (Ven) and M Paz (Arg), 7-5, 3-6, 6-2.
C Bailey and M Javer (GB) bt B Black (Zim) and L Novello (Mex), 7-6, 3-6, 6-7.

Second round

M WOODFORDE (Aus) and M NAVRATILOVA (US) bt D Mac- Pherson and R McQuillen (Aus), 6-4, 7-5.
G CONNELL (Can) and R WHITE (US) bt C Wilkinson and J Salmon (GB), 6-4, 7-5.

BOYS' SINGLES (British only): First round: J N R Baay (GB) bt C Halm (Indo), 7-6, 4-6, 6-4; J Novak (Cz) bt M W P Coombe (GB), 7-5, 7-6; J J Jackson (US) bt L J Miligan (GB), 6-3, 7-5; L Olgun (Arg) bt T J Sprinks (GB), 6-3, 7-6; J Delgado (GB) bt R Kokevics (Can), 4-6, 6-4.

GIRLS' SINGLES (British only): First round: A Basica (US) bt K V Wame- Holland (GB), 6-2, 6-1; A H M Wainwright (GB) bt L Horn (SA), 3-6, 6-3, 6-2; A Glass (Ger) bt J M Pullin (GB), 6-2, 6-2; E Jells (GB) bt M F Landis (Arg), 6-3, 6-3; C Taylor (GB) bt Z Helle (GB), 6-0, 6-4; T Crosson (GB) bt E Evers (SA), 5-7, 6-4, 6-1; A Pastor (Fr) bt L Woodroffe (GB), 5-7, 6-3, 6-1.

Britain recover in Rome to take second place behind Russia in European Cup

Jackson zips to fastest time in world this year

FROM DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT, IN ROME

THE Great Britain men's team made a wholehearted but ultimately unsuccessful attempt yesterday to regain the European Cup, losing by four points to Russia and finishing second. At the end of the first day, they had been fifth, but wins from Colin Jackson, John Regis, Rob Denmark and the 4x400 metres relay team brought them into contention going into the last event.

There are many ways of looking at it but, in the end, the young high jumper, Steve Smith, will feel worse than anyone. His sixth place on Saturday brought him only four points; he had taken the nine he expected, having ousted the double European Cup champion, Dalton Grant, from the team. Britain would have finished ahead of Russia instead of four points behind.

Britain needed a good start to the second day and were not disappointed. Jackson won the opening track event, the 110 metres hurdles, and Regis the 200 metres. Jackson, in particular, performed wonderfully. He was comfortably the quickest away and took the first nine flights cleanly; however, he was low coming into the last and chopped it down, but his time of 15.10sec left him with the fastest in the world this year. Paul Head's fifth place in the hammer was points against the head, he was expected to be seventh.

Now, it was the turn of McKean to sustain the challenge in the 800 metres.

McKean had a fifth successive European Cup victory to chase, a competition record, and he pursued it in the manner he has accomplished all his main achievements. His European, world indoor and European indoor titles were all won with commanding displays of front running and, when the athletes broke from their lanes, McKean had the rest in tow.

Down the back straight on the second lap, the Russian, Aleksey Oleynikov, tried to pass but McKean accelerated and fought him off. The Scot still led coming off the bend but, from sixth place, Andrei Bulkovskiy, of the Ukraine, sprinted by to take victory, with Andrea Benvenuti, of Italy, taking second in the last few strides.

Bulkovskiy, 21, is an exciting new talent. His victory in 13min 47.32sec completed a middle-distance double: he had triumphed in the 1,500 metres on Saturday with a devastating finish. As a Ukrainian, he is a poor man, on an income of \$18 a month, half paid by his sports club and half by the national athletics federation. But he dines mainly on caviar.

"I spend a third of my income on caviar because there is plenty available to buy," he said. For ordinary vegetables, he needs to pay

black market prices. Nor does he have a sponsor but no doubt that will change now.

McKean, third in 13min 47.75sec, said: "I cannot complain. Tactically, I did everything right. I did not make a mess of it." McKean has often been criticised for that but he could not be this time.

Denmark's display in the 5,000 metres was the most stimulating of the weekend by a British athlete. He ran a shrewdly judged race, win-

FINAL POSITIONS

MEN: 1, Russia, 126pts; 2, Great Britain, 124; 3, France, 122; 4, Germany, 119; 5, Italy, 112; 6, Ukraine, 97; 7, Spain, 75; 8, Poland, 65; 9, Czech Republic, 54.

WOMEN: 1, Russia, 141; 2, Romania, 102; 3, Ukraine, 97; 4, Germany, 96; 5, Great Britain, 91; 6, France, 75; 7, Poland, 62; 8, Italy, 55; 9, Finland, 44.

ning a tactical battle in 13min 30.02sec. Asked if he was sure at any point before the finish he was going to win, the reply came back as fast as his kick: "Yes, with 5,000 metres to go."

As he crossed the line, he waved and shouted. What had he said? "I can't remember, but whatever it was it was for all those people who doubted and criticised British long-distance running. I hope it got right under their skin."

Mike Hill achieved his expected second place in the

javelin to Jan Zelezny, the world record holder, and Jonathan Edwards cannot be disappointed with second place in the triple jump, even though he lost his lead in the fifth round to Pierre Camara, of France.

But Tom Buckner's sixth place in the steeplechase checked Britain's progress and, though Neil Winter finished higher than expected in the pole vault, seventh, it left Britain needing Sergey Bubka, the greatest vaulter in history, to beat Rodion Gataullin, of Russia. Gataullin got the victory Russia needed for a five-point cushion going into the relay. Britain won it but Russia were second.

Russia won the women's competition too, Britain finishing fifth. Sally Gunnell, in the 400 metres hurdles, was Britain's only winner. Two of the best performances were from late substitutes, Linda Keough, third in the 400 metres and Suzanne Rigg, coming fourth in the 10,000 metres.

Keough had less than an hour's notice that she was running after Phyllis Smith fell sick. Rigg flew out on Saturday as the replacement for Liz McColgan. She had run two distance races in a week yet still had enough freshness in her legs left to go within four seconds of the world championship qualifying time.



Out on his own: Grindley powers over the line to win the 400 metres in Rome

Grindley follows in Black's footsteps

BIT by bit, David Grindley is taking Roger Black's place, but there is still work to do. (David Powell writes.) "If you walked up to someone in the street and said 'Who is David Grindley?', they would not have a clue. But they would recognise Roger." Grindley said yesterday. The recent men's 400m.

For all but a few, street recognition comes from being more than a sportsman. Black sticks in the mind because he has qualities beyond athletic ability — charm, intelligence, looks and presence.

He is Becker, not Sampras. Grindley is Sampras. Quietly professional but not one to win over mums watching on television. Not so far away.

At 20, there is time enough to reveal a personality in public but first must come the credibility and the bricks are being stacked. He is the European junior 400 metres champion, as Black was; he is the British record-holder, as Black was; and now, he has succeeded Black as European Cup champion and record-holder.

The next brick is a world championship medal this summer, which Black managed two years ago.

"Watching David reminded me of a 19 or 20-year-old Roger Black," Mike Whittingham, Black's coach, said.

Incredibly strong physically and mentally. Very committed. Extremely talented and able to respond to the challenge."

The challenge was to win from lane nine and, with 44.75sec, only one opponent finished within a second of him. The change to his morale from a week ago was noticeable.

Last Monday, he was feeling low after hearing how fast the Americans had run. "I was disheartened," he said. "Now I think I can maybe scrape a medal."

Though 44.75sec would not have placed him in the top six of the United States trials, Grindley reckoned that, in a competitive race and from a more favourable lane, he would have run "definitely 44.5sec... and, probably quicker."

His British record of 44.75sec will surely not last the season.

RESULTS FROM ROME

MEN: 100m: 1, L. Christie (GB), 10.22sec; 2, D. Sangouma (Rus), 10.28; 3, J. Remp (GB), 10.38; 4, A. Fecteau (Rus), 10.42; 5, R. Kurnos (GB), 10.59; 400m: 1, D. Grindley (GB), 44.75; 2, D. Golevskov (Rus), 45.65; 3, J. Rapraut (Fr), 45.91; 800m: 1, A. Bulkovskiy (Ukr), 1min 47.32sec; 2, A. Benvenuti (It), 1:47.63; 3, T. McKean (GB), 1:47.87; 1,500m: 1, A. Bulkovskiy (Ukr), 3:37.51; 2, F. Cacho (Sp), 3:38.05; 3, P. Thebaud (Fr), 3:38.12; 5, C. Robb (GB), 3:38.55; 5,000m: 1, R. Denmark (GB), 13:40.02; 2, A. Lantsovich (Rus), 13:40.96; 3, A. Anton (Sp), 13:41.35; 10,000m: 1, T. Paniel (Fr), 29:02.71; 2, F. Panetta (It), 29:13.52; 3, C. Adin (Sp), 29:15.19; E. Martin (GB), failed to finish; 3,000m steeplechase: 1, S. Brand (GB), 8:17.77; 2, Panetta, 8:22.65; 3, T. Brusseaux (Fr), 8:24.80; 5, T. Buckner (GB), 8:33.39; 110m hurdles: 1, C. Jackson (GB), 15.10sec; 2, J. Schwartruff (Ger), 15.50; 3, S. Philbert (Fr), 15.62; 400m hurdles: 1, S. Gunnell (Fr), 48.08; 2, O. Henne (Ger), 48.48; 3, O. Tverdokhino (Ukr), 48.70; 4, K.

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Pride of Lions points way towards place in history



Winning smiles: Underwood, left, who scored a try, Hastings, centre, who kicked four penalty goals, and Andrew, who dropped a goal, celebrate victory over the All Blacks. Photograph: David Rogers/Allsport

The beauty of the British Isles' win was that even New Zealanders were happy. Not, of course, the All Blacks themselves, but the everyday supporters, those who know their rugby, those who have cherished an affection for the Lions tradition and recognise a match-winning formula when they see it.

They will hope to see New Zealand take the series in the deciding third international in Auckland this weekend, but they will be far from certain of the outcome. The added beauty of it is that the Lions are not satisfied. Victory at Athletic Park here on Saturday, by a try, four penalty goals and a dropped goal to a goal, has not only saved their tour; now they have their teeth into the series, they do not want to let go.

Take Peter Winterbottom, whose international career began in victory over Australia at Twickenham 11 years

ago and will end at Eden Park against New Zealand. Defeat would spoil the ending and, having emerged from the festering disappointment of defeat in Christchurch and Auckland, and from the bleak, black anger of Hawke's Bay, the Lions do not want that.

They seek their own niche in history. Only one team, the 1937 Springboks, have come back from a 1-0 deficit to win a series here, and only one Lions team, that of 1971, has won a series here. Gavin Hastings' team, with a record 13-point margin in only the sixth Lions victory over the All Blacks — improving on the 13-3 win of their 1971 predecessors — can do both.

Yet the balance on which these Lions walk is slender indeed. For all the expressions of confidence last week, they were close to being without Hastings on Saturday. The captain was unhappy with his hamstring injury

and had to be convinced by the medical team that it would survive the match.

Even worse was the case of Dean Richards, whose torn calf muscle put his place in jeopardy. In each case, three to four weeks' rest would have been prescribed at home. But James Robson, the doctor who must pay a locum out of his own pocket to make this trip, and Kevin Murphy, the physiotherapist, brought the key players back to health and the team's debt to them is huge.

It was crucial that Hastings played. That he had the fortitude to put behind him the dropped catch that led to Eroni Clarke's try and two missed penalties showed why. He became part of a masterful display of controlled rugby.

Playing into the stiff breeze and the bright sunshine, the Lions' lineout worked so well that they were able not only to make up a seven-point deficit but to turn around in the lead.



David Hands, in Wellington, sees the British Isles beat the All Blacks 20-7 to level the three-match series

Yet the most telling moment of this international was not Rob Andrew's left-footed dropped goal that gave them a 9-7 lead, nor was it Rory Underwood's sprint for glory into what used to be known as "Bernie's Corner" after the former All Black and Wellington wing, Bernie Fraser. It was the five-metre scrum late in the third quarter, when there were five points between the teams and with the All Blacks on desperate attack.

The Lions had a loose-head prop on the tight-head side and a comparative novice in the second row. Yet their scrum locked up, survived the All Blacks' secondary shove and then squeezed them backwards. It was a psychological blow of monumental

proportions and in years to come, when Nick Poppellwell, Brian Moore and Jason Leonard meet to talk about old times, they will recall that scrum with misty-eyed affection.

Poppellwell, one New Zealander said, played the best game of any loose-head he had seen. "It's great being part of the English scrum," the Irishman said dryly, though nationality was subsumed in the Lions' cause.

Both he and Leonard, quite apart from their primary roles, were magnificent in the loose in a match where the sight of tight forwards making tackle after tackle became commonplace.

It was not limited to the

forwards: Andrew, his tactical judgment never better, made 22 tackles that will cause many stand-off halves of the past to blench.

Gradually it eroded the All Blacks' confidence and the statistics tell the tale. Of the Lions' 14 scrums, six were turnovers. New Zealand won the ruck-maul count 52-25 but they went nowhere. So limited were they that their only play, at times, appeared to be to run the big wings at the Lions, but Kirwan wore Guscott like a shroud and even Tuigamala, though he could break the first line, could not smash the second.

It did not help that some of the most experienced All Blacks failed to lead by example. Fitzpatrick conceded several penalties and the two Joneses were both caught indulging in unnecessary foul play. Nor will the Lions management be convinced that the entry of Ian Jones at half-time as a replacement for

Cooksley, whose hamstring injury flared up, was anything but a straightforward tactical substitution of a player getting nowhere at the lineout.

To single out any Lion on such a day would be invidious but how Morris enjoyed himself. The Orrell scrum half will never make the list of all-time greats, but this was his moment in the sun. His much-criticised pass worked to perfection, nearly every kick paid dividends and his strength in the tackle is now accepted.

He also spotted the short-side space after Fitzpatrick spilled the ball, supplied Guscott and the centre gave Rory Underwood enough space to round Kirwan and speed 40 metres to the line. "Like a Porsche passing a Lada," Tony Underwood told a television audience, scarcely able to control family pride.

That, for Ian McGeechan, was the moment when every-

thing he has worked for on this tour came together. The stern defence, the moment of opportunity, the recognition of the moment and the ability to do everything right to seize it were all there.

In the first international, they were lacking, but on Saturday they were there for 80 minutes for the first time on tour. Now, at Eden Park, the Lions must do it all again.

SCORES: New Zealand: Try: Caine. Conversion: Fox. British Isles: Try: R Underwood. Penalty goals: Hastings (4). Dropped goal: Andrew.

NEW ZEALAND: J K R Thru (Capt); J J Kirwan (Auckland); F E Bunc (North Harbour); E Caine (Auckland); V L Tuigamala (Auckland); G J Fox (Auckland); J P Fraser (Wellington); G W Dowd (Auckland); S B T Fitzpatrick (Auckland); G M Brown (Auckland); J W Joseph (Capt); R M Brooke (Auckland); M S B Cookley (Capt); R D Jones (North Auckland); M N Jones (Auckland); Z V Brooke (Auckland).

BRITISH ISLES: A G Hastings (Worcestershire, capt); C Evans (Leinster); S Gliba (Worcestershire); J C Guscott (Bath); R Underwood (Leicester); C R Andrew (Worcestershire); C D Morris (Capt); N J Poppellwell (Gloucestershire); B C Jones (Leicester); J Leonard (Leicester); B B Clarke (Bath); M O Johnston (Leicester); M C Bedford (Northampton); P J Winterbottom (Leicester); temporary rep: C D Tregear (Moseley); D Richards (Leicester).

Referee: P Robin (France).

FA considers World Cup players to help lift Taylor's campaign

David Miller examines an ambitious plan to appoint an experienced player to assist the beleaguered England football manager

IF GRAHAM Taylor should be fortunate enough for England to qualify for the World Cup finals, it is possible, I understand, that he will be invited by the Football Association — or even required — to have as his assistant a former senior World Cup player.

The most obvious candidates, two of whom are managing Premier League clubs, are Trevor Francis, Kevin Keegan and Bryan Robson. Such a step would be a compromise in the absence of a decision to terminate Taylor's reign prematurely. It would be simultaneously critical and pragmatic, and might also help prevent Taylor making similar blunders in selection in the United States to those that have recently undermined England's performances.

The FA is in a cleft stick. On the one hand, it wants to be dignified, not to be pushed by the clamour for Taylor's head, and to allow the manager to see out his contract to the end of next season, whether or not England qualify.

On the other hand, the FA recognises the parlous state of the national team, threatened with exclusion from the supposed top 24 teams next summer.

There was no discussion at FA Council meeting in Bournemouth this weekend of England's problems after the defeat by Norway in the World Cup qualifying competition this month, which was worsened by another against the United States.

"Of course we are concerned about what happened in Poland, Norway and the United States," Sir Bert Millichip, the FA chairman, said. "The time will come to discuss that but we have a committee to deal with those matters." Taylor did not attend the meeting and will not be required to report until the next international committee meeting, probably in October.

It was agreed, however, that in the near future there should be a fresh analysis on international administration and coaching on a national basis — fundamentally, a question of who coaches the coaches.

Yet the FA is fully aware of the degree of Taylor's mis-



Taylor: theoretician

judgment in team selection and tactics. Although a loss of face for him, and for Lawrie McMenemy, his official assistant, the appointment of an experienced World Cup player, familiar with an area beyond Taylor's own knowledge, would give him a valuable second opinion.

The mood, among some members of the FA's international committee is that Taylor needs protection and advice. This may not be flattering but even Taylor would regard it as better than the sack. What Taylor did against Norway — sending out a changed defence, midfield and attack with previously untried tactics — is not likely to have happened had he been able to discuss the situation with an experienced player.

The idea has been mooted within the FA as an alternative to the dressing-room power that twice helped shape the World Cup teams of Bobby Robson, first in Mexico and then Italy. Dressing-room power is unlikely to influence Taylor because there is none.

With Lineker gone, Pearce injured and Walker suffering from a loss of form after an uncertain year in Italy, Platt is the only player of real experience and he has neither the knowledge nor status to turn the manager's hand.

Taylor has been additionally handicapped by having an assistant, McMenemy, whose own managerial strengths have been in the man-management of good players rather than in the subtlety of tactics.

Thus, in an acutely lonely position, Taylor made judgements in recent weeks based almost entirely on theory rather than practice... and England have paid the predictable price.

If England fail to qualify, and Taylor goes, the FA will have learned from bitter experience that a good second division coach is not necessarily an England manager.

Millichip is anxious that England should follow the example of Germany and establish a train of natural succession, such as that from Herberger to Schoen, Durrill, Beckenbauer and Vogts.

Yet the German example is one that was available even before Revie randomly replaced Ramsey. In the long term, the FA is intent on bringing the best of England's young players increasingly within the boundaries of professional clubs for the benefit of coaching rather than have them playing endless competitive matches in English schools football.

That of course comes back to the question of what the young players are being taught. In the under-15 international against Germany at Wembley this month, this seemed in need of serious scrutiny.

Bull to lead Barnet exodus

GARY Bull will top the list of sought-after Barnet players if he is given a free transfer, with seven other players, this week. Bull is ready to join his former manager, Barry Fry, at Southend United if a Football League tribunal meeting on Friday grants the multiple request for free transfers.

Barnet have breached the players' contracts by failing to pay them for five weeks. A loss of such significant assets would, almost certainly, sound the death knell for the club, which is believed to be £1.3 million in debt and at the centre of a tax investigation.

A ten-man consortium interested in taking over the second division club disbanded at the weekend after the League refused to negotiate on their demand for £500,000 in bank bonds. The League called an extraordinary meeting of clubs to vote on Barnet's expulsion for July 19, but a consortium representative, Stephen Glynn, believes the club could collapse before then.

The League expects to be sponsored next season and will make an announcement soon.

GRAEME Obree, the Scot who has broken the British one-hour track record three times in as many years, could become more than a thorn in the side of Chris Boardman, the Olympic 4,000 metres pursuit champion.

Boardman was the first to announce an attempt next month on the world one-hour record, set nine years ago by the professional, Francesco Moser, who covered 31.9 miles (51.51km) at altitude in Mexico City. Obree has since announced that he, too, plans at attempt on Moser's figures, on Boardman's choice of track, Bordeaux, but a week earlier.

If nothing else, Obree gained another psychological advantage yesterday in the national 50-mile time-trial championship on roads between Sandwich and Whitstable in Kent, riding a home-built bike, as Boardman, last year's winner, was crossing the Channel after a week spent training in Bordeaux.

The Scot, from Ayr and who is unemployed, set a new British and championship record of 1hr 39min 55sec, which prompted Ian Cannish, the former holder, to say: "Incredible. He's world class."

Yesterday's victory, at an average speed in excess of 30mph, was by an extraordinary nine-minute margin over Stuart Dangerfield, one of the country's fastest short distance

Obree poses threat to Boardman ambitions

BY PETER BRYAN

riders. He had trailed Obree by six minutes at half-distance.

As he celebrated his first British road title, at a lunch-time barbecue, Obree disclosed a possible secret to his success. "I drank two pints of water immediately before I started. It felt a bit uncomfortable for the first ten miles but it certainly stopped me from becoming dehydrated," he said.

As a warm-up for his new record, the previous day Obree broke the national ten-mile record to win the Gravesend CC event with a time of 18min.27sec at an average speed of 32.5mph. For that, he was rewarded with a bonus cheque of £1,000.

A Scottish weekend championship double was denied when Brian Smith, of the Banana team who was the

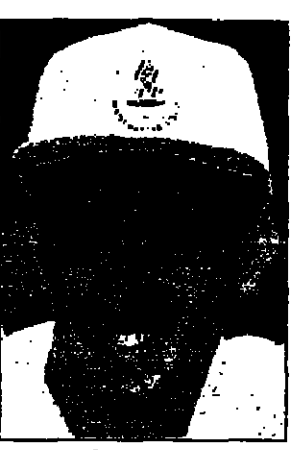
winner in 1991, finished second to Malcolm Elliott, back from the United States. In the 112-miles national professional road race on the Isle of Man, only ten of the 21 starters finished. It was Elliott's first British professional road race title.

Shane Sutton, of Australia, the 1990 Milk Race winner who also rides for the Banana team, took the bronze medal, seven seconds behind after leading a five-man breakaway that led by more than two minutes on the Snaefell mountain road on the TT course.

However, he and John Tanner, of Yorkshire, were eventually caught by Elliott, Smith, Robert Millar, the experienced Scottish rider, and the winner of the 1993 Milk Race, Chris Lillywhite.

Lillywhite attacked on a climb halfway through the last six-mile circuit, but Elliott countered decisively as Millar, a former winner of the King of the Mountains title in the Tour de France, struggled to stay in contention, eventually finishing fifth.

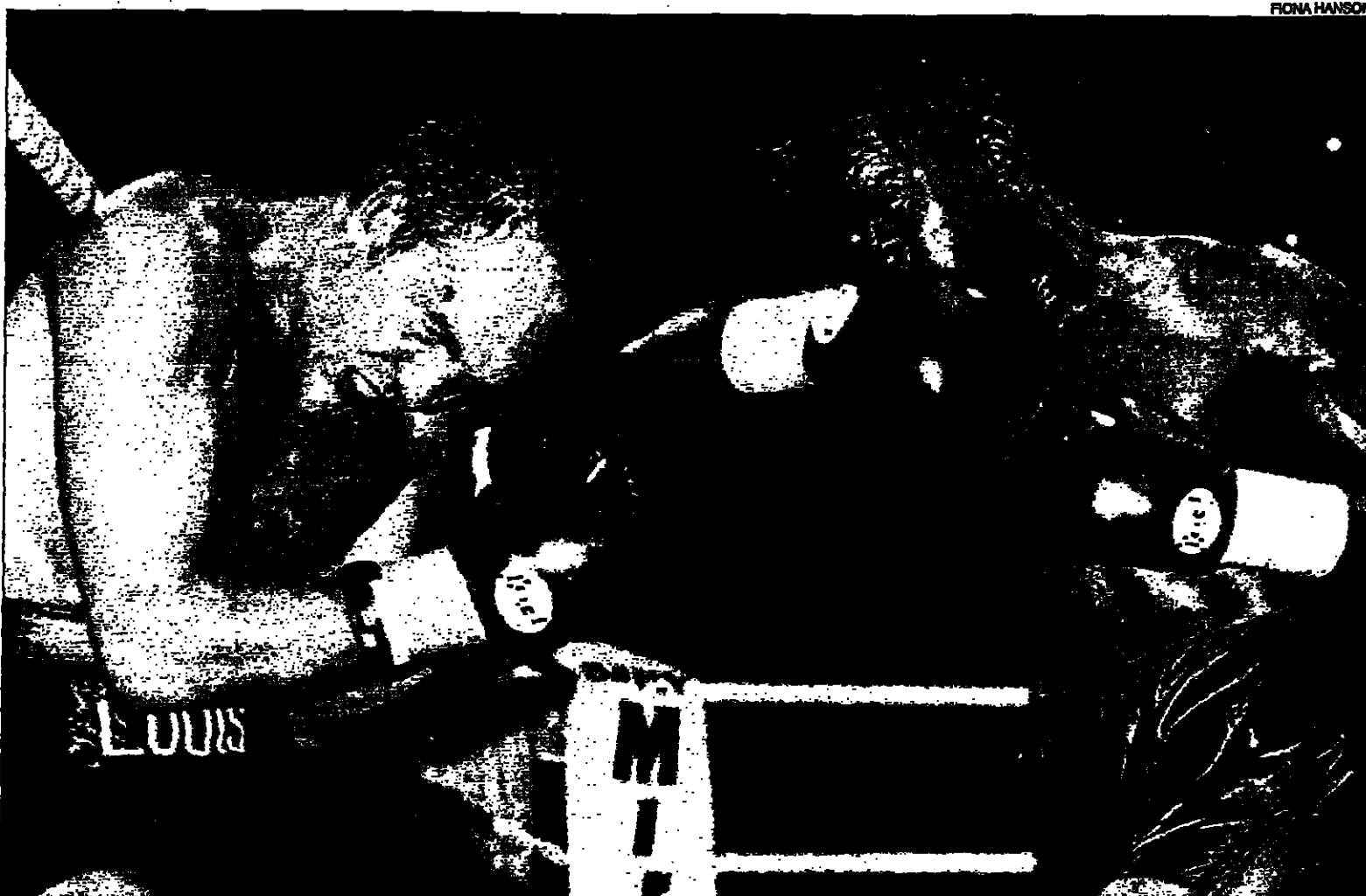
RESULTS: British professional road race championship (all ride of Men, 112mi): 1, M Elliott (Chester-LA Sports), 5hr 5min 44sec; 2, B Smith (Banana), same time; 3, S Sutton (Banana), at 7sec; 4, C Lillywhite (Banana), at 5sec; 5, R Millar (TVM), at 10sec; 6, S Way (PCA), at 5:12. RTTC national 50-mile time-trial championship (at Sandwich, Kent): 1, G Obree (Leo PC), 1hr 39min 55sec (British championship record); 2, S Dangerfield (Leo PC), 1:48:07; 3, R Longbottom (North Wales), 1:48:12. Team: Leo PC (Obree, Dangerfield, W Morris), 5:02:07. Gravesend CC (10mi): G Obree (Leo PC), 18:27 (British championship record); Team: Leo PC, 1:01:57.



Boardman: pressure

Gent loses gamely as champion plans rematch with bitter rival

Benn issues warning to Eubank



Bravery under fire: Gent takes cover as Benn delivers another attack during their WBC super-middleweight contest at Olympia

By Srikumar Sen
Boxing Correspondent

IF THE first meeting between Nigel Benn and Chris Eubank was a qualified promotional success, the second, pencilled in for October 10, should be a sell-out — thanks to the crackling bout between Benn and Loui Gent on Saturday at Olympia.

It lasted only four rounds, with Benn proving too strong for Gent, but there was more action and excitement in the middle two rounds than in the last two contests of either Benn and Eubank put together.

Benn's boxing was of the highest quality and was overshadowed only by Gent's courage and determination, the like of which had not been seen in a British ring in a long time. Gent was on the floor

five times, three times in the third round and twice in the fourth. The packed house was on its feet all the way and it was no surprise to hear that Alex Wallau, the ABC commentator, had told American viewers that the bout was one of the most exciting he had seen since Marvin Hagler met Thomas Hearns. Barry Hearn, the promoter said: "If anyone needed a fight to sell another fight, this one would bring a smile to any promoter's face."

About 9,000 attended the first bout between Benn and Eubank at the NEC in Birmingham. Hearn can expect to fill a football stadium this time. He was involved in the Frank Bruno v Joe Bugner promotion at Tottenham Hotspur in late October six

years ago and now he is thinking about putting on the bout at Manchester United. The match, which will give Benn and Eubank £1 million apiece, could outdraw Lennox Lewis against Bruno at Cardiff Arms Park, which goes on two weeks before on September 25. However, Hearn almost certainly have to win a political battle before going ahead with the arrangements.

His way is blocked by a bitter rival, Mickey Duff. He manages Henry Wharton, of York, who has the right of first challenge for Benn's World Boxing Council title. Benn must make a mandatory defence against Wharton before the end of October. Duff is unlikely to give way without substantial financial inducement and other guarantees. Hearn is unlikely to give them

and is hoping that Don King, the American promoter, who is putting up the money for the Benn v Eubank show, will fix it with Jose Sulaiman, the WBC president. When the contest does take place, Benn should gain revenge. Eubank has never found his old form after that tragic bout with Michael Watson while Benn has improved all the time and looks better than the Benn that met Eubank. He boxed with great authority and confidence against Gent, a bigger man who had prepared well.

Every time Gent went down in the third round, it seemed he would never get up, but each time he was on his feet at eight and fought back fiercely. At one point, when he had Benn in trouble, he could not catch the champion cleanly.

Benn later said that he knew Gent would come in swinging and so he took care to stay under his punches. By the fourth, Benn's left hooks had so weakened Gent that the first glancing right to the head dropped him to his knees and then a right to the body brought referee Larry O'Connell to the rescue.

Benn said: "I don't think Eubank can handle me. I'm back to the old Nigel Benn. I'm using my power with greater control. I was so relaxed and confident." Eubank's trainer, Ronnie Davies, keeping a watching brief for the WBO champion, who is in New York visiting his mother, said Benn looked tremendous. "Those punches were lethal," Davies said. "Chris will have to be 100 per cent fit."

Alcatel duo are quick to calm Cowdray

By John Watson

THE British Open polo championships for the Davidoff Gold Cup, for which 14 entries are deployed in three leagues, opened over the weekend at the Beaufort club in Gloucestershire, and at Cowdray Park, Sussex.

Kerry Packer's second team, Ellerton Black, won their match against the Tomlinsons Los Locos by 13 goals to eight; John Manconi's Alcatel beat Cowdray Park 7-5, and Labegorce beat Pegasus, 10-9.

The Alcatel-Cowdray challenge was fraught with injury, drama and delay at Cowdray Park yesterday. Manconi having dropped out, Webb took his place in the Alcatel No 1 slot.

Cowdray began the encounter one up on handicap. Alcatel's back, Ignacio Gonzalez, having received a handi-cap promotion after the entries were declared.

This advantage was equalised in the first chukka with a sensational under-the-neck goal from Alcatel's No 3, Ficoi Alberdi, who plays off the top 10 handicap.

Just after this Alan Kent the Cowdray captain, who had his leg hurt on Saturday, decided he could not continue. Forty-five minutes passed before a substitute could be found.

Cowdray Park wanted Amanda Gonzalez, but he proved ineligible. So Martin Glue, a five-goaler, was enrolled, which reduced Cowdray's team handicap to 20 and spectators despaired for their beloved home side.

However, the squad now led by Charles Beresford, played a classic tactical formation game. And Glue, although riding Kent's ponies, which were strangers to him, wasted no time, not only in dovetailing securely with the foursome, but also showing some impressive stick work.

This was a nervous battle, full of umpire's whistle and wild shots at goal. The second half opened at 4-4. In the last three chukkas Alcatel's central duo, Alberdi, who dribbles the ball like a conjurer, and his No 2 Gabriel Donoso, the Chilean nine-goaler, forged their brilliant partnership and goals from Webb, Gonzalez and Donoso won the day.

ELLERTON BLACK: 1 R Williams (3), 2 R Gonzalez (7), 3 C Gracia (10), 4 R Packer (8).

LOS LOCOS: 1 C Tomlinson (8), 2 M Arce (7), 3 H Croto (9), 4 S Tomlinson (3).

ALCATEL: 1 P Webb (1), 2 G Donoso (3), 3 P Alberdi (10), 4 Bicoi Gonzalez (3).

COWDRAY PARK: 1 Hon C Pearson (2), 2 M Webb (7), 3 C Beresford (3), 4 Bicoi Glue (5).

LABEGORCE: 1 B Webb (2), 2 G Haguy (10), 3 H Haguy (10), 4 Bicoi H Perodi (1).

PEGASUS: 1 A Farnshaw (4), 2 B Araya (3), 3 H Haggard (8), 4 Bicoi M Guss (1).

SPORT IN BRIEF

LeMond pulls out of Tour de France

GREG LeMond, three times the winner of the Tour de France cycling race, yesterday announced he is to miss the event this year. LeMond, of the United States, has been weakened by an allergy complaint and is not fit enough to complete the gruelling three-week race, which starts on Saturday. LeMond, who won the Tour in 1986, 1989 and 1990, has been riding poorly all season, dropping out of several races and finishing well down in those he has completed. He suffered stomach aches and dysentery shortly before dropping out of the Tour of Italy. Miguel Indurain, of Spain, who has won the Tour in the last two years, is strong favourite to make it three victories in a row. Massimo Podenzana won the Italian cycling championships in Prato yesterday by defeating the world champion and leading Tour de France contender, Gianni Bugno. Claudio Chiappucci, also expected to challenge for the Tour title, gave up with 70 kilometres still to go.

South Africa switch

RUGBY UNION: Three South Africa forwards who played in the 20-20 draw with France in Durban on Saturday have been dropped for the second international match next week. Rudi Visagie and Kobus Wiese, both lock forwards, have been replaced by Nico Wegner, of Western Province, and Hannes Strydom, of Transvaal, while Ian MacDonald, a flanker, makes way for Deon Lotter, also of Transvaal. South Africa were lucky to escape with a draw in an error-ridden match marred by two braais.

Iestyn Lewis, the Wales under-21 centre, who has been understudy to the England internationals, Jeremy Guscott and Phil de Glanville, at Bath, has decided to join the Newport club.

Scots claim series

BOWLS: Scotland, who won the women's home international series at Ayr on Saturday for the third year in succession, now hold two world and three British team titles and need only to win the men's outdoor series at Worthing next month to complete a full set. After dominating the series, however, the Scots won only one title — the triples — when the British Isles individual championships were completed yesterday. Phillis Nolan, of Blackrock, Dublin, returned to the group where she partnered Margaret Johnston to win the world outdoor pairs title last year, and became the first woman to retain the British singles championship, beating Julie Davis, playing in her third British final, 25-4.

Winkelhock wins again

MOTOR SPORT: Joachim Winkelhock, of Germany, took full advantage of the retirement of David Leslie to record his fourth victory of the year and regain the lead of the Auto Trader British Touring Car Championship at Pembrey in South Wales. Winkelhock made a spectacular start but Leslie was extending the margin at the head of the field when his Ecurie Ecosse Vauxhall suffered a broken throttle cable. It was Winkelhock's seventh victory from eight races for the BMW team. Will Hoy was second in his Toyota. Oliver Gavin took his third successive victory in the British Formula Three championship race at Donington Park.

Davis glides home

GLIDING: Andy Davis, an airline pilot from Gloucestershire, and Brian Spreckley, a professional gliding instructor, won gold and bronze medals at the world championships in Borlange, Sweden. Davis, 37, flying a Discus in the standard class, beat the Dutchman, Eric Borgmann, also in a Discus. He started the ninth and last day 280 points ahead of Borgmann and although he lost ground, he still finished 226 ahead. Spreckley, 44, a former world champion competing in the open class for the first time, came eighth in an ASH25 on the final day but it was enough to pip Jan Anderson, of Denmark, in a Nimbus 4 for third place.

Enquiry into fracas

RUGBY LEAGUE: The New Zealand Rugby League has launched an enquiry into crowd violence during the second international between the world champions, Australia, and New Zealand. Australian players said after the match in Palmerston North last Friday that they had been manhandled by spectators and had missiles thrown at them. The end was delayed for almost four minutes after spectators stole all three official match balls. Australia won 16-8, the first international in Auckland having been drawn. The final match of the series is in Brisbane on Wednesday.

Holyfield returns

EVANDER Holyfield, is on course for a rematch with the world heavyweight champion, Riddick Bowe, after gaining a unanimous points decision over Alex Stewart, the British-born Jamaican, on Saturday. On the evidence of the contest in Atlantic City, however, Holyfield appears unlikely to regain the title he lost to Bowe last November.

Holyfield, who "retired" after the Bowe defeat, was unimpressive in his comeback performance against a listless Stewart. There were no knock-downs in the 12 rounds as Holyfield, who

opened up a cut over Stewart's left eye in the third round, relied on his jab much more than he has in the past. His performance did not please the crowd of around 10,000, who broke out in boos on several occasions. "He's a game fighter," Holyfield said of Stewart afterwards. "He's tough to get out." Holyfield has now won 29 of his 30 contests and there appears to be a good chance that Holyfield, 30, will fight Bowe in November for his WBA and IBF titles. Lennox Lewis, the British heavyweight, holds the WBC championship.

Honeyghan stopped short

LLOYD Honeyghan's roller-coaster boxing career appears to be at an end after he was beaten on the Evander Holyfield v Alex Stewart undercard in Atlantic City on Saturday. Honeyghan, the former undisputed world welterweight champion, was stopped in the tenth round by Vinnie Pazienza, of the United States, a former IBF light-middleweight and WBA junior-middleweight champion. Honeyghan, 33, from Bermanside, was outgunned by Pazienza's unrelenting attack and superior punching power in the middleweight bout. The contest ended when

Honeyghan's manager, Mickey Duff, threw in the towel — just seconds before the New Jersey State Athletic Commission chairman, Larry Hazzard, jumped into the ring to halt proceedings. Honeyghan had been battered by Pazienza in the ninth round and it appeared to be only a matter of time before either he or the officials would end the fight. Pazienza improved his record to 34 victories, including 26 knockouts, with five defeats while Honeyghan now has four defeats compared to his 41 wins. Pazienza, who was told he would never fight

again after breaking his neck in a car accident in November, 1991 but, nevertheless, successfully returned to the ring last December, said he is seeking a contest with Roberto Duran, the veteran Panamanian, before challenging for a world title. Duran and Pazienza, the only boxers ever to hold world titles in the lightweight and junior-middleweight divisions, nearly fought on the Saturday night card, but Duran and Pazienza's promoter, Dan Duva, failed to reach contract terms and Honeyghan was brought in to meet the American instead.

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NUCLEAR INDUSTRY

As Britain's latest nuclear station nears completion, Nigel Hawkes reports on the industry's frustration with government dithering

Atomic power faces review timebomb

The British nuclear industry has never provided a quiet life. The 100,000 people whose jobs depend on it have been subject to governments whose commitment to nuclear power has seldom been full-hearted. But never, perhaps, has the future been quite so clouded. The terms of reference for a government review of the industry are expected next month. This will determine whether Nuclear Electric and Scottish Nuclear have a future at all, beyond looking after the existing Magnox and AGR stations until they reach the end of their lives.

Fuel reprocessing and the disposal of waste is even more delicately balanced. A government announcement on it, and when, the completed Thorp reprocessing plant at Sellafield will be allowed to open is said to be imminent, though nobody would be surprised at a further delay.

For years, the industry has lacked friends in high places. The last time it was in really good odour was after the miners' strike in the early 1980s, when it was credited with keeping the lights burning. Today, the government is unlikely to court further unpopularity by springing to the defence of a form of power that is seen by its army of critics as expensive and environmentally unsound.

Yet the industry remains substantial and important. Two of the biggest construction jobs in Europe over the past decade have been Sizewell B, Britain's first pressurised water reactor, and Thorp. Capital investment by the industry last year amounted to £1.5 billion. Seventy companies, including 15 in the top 100, are members of the British Nuclear Industry Group.

The industry employs directly some 40,000 people, with another 60,000 working for supplier companies. In England and Wales, Nuclear Electric provides more than a fifth of the electricity, while in Scotland, Scottish Nuclear

generates almost half. In fuel services, Britain is one of the leading nations in the world market. This is a big industry, and what happens to it is of significance to the whole economy. The review, now expected to begin in October and be completed in the spring of 1994, was a direct result of the privatisation of the electricity industry. The decision by the then Secretary of State for Energy, John Wakeham, to keep the nuclear stations in public ownership left them in a limbo, to be resolved by a review held when Sizewell B was nearing completion.

In effect, the industry was warned that it would be judged by its success in building Sizewell B on time and to budget. This it has achieved, against all previous experience and many people's expectations. But will success at Sizewell be enough? The industry fears not.

True, some anxieties have already been put to one side. The coal review that followed the future over pit closures has relieved the Magnox stations, which some were pressing should be closed to make room for more coal to be burned. Closure would have been poor economics, since the capital costs of the stations are long since swallowed and on a day-to-day basis they generate electricity competitively — but it might have seemed good politics.

Clearly, the future of the industry depends not on old reactors, but the freedom to build new ones.

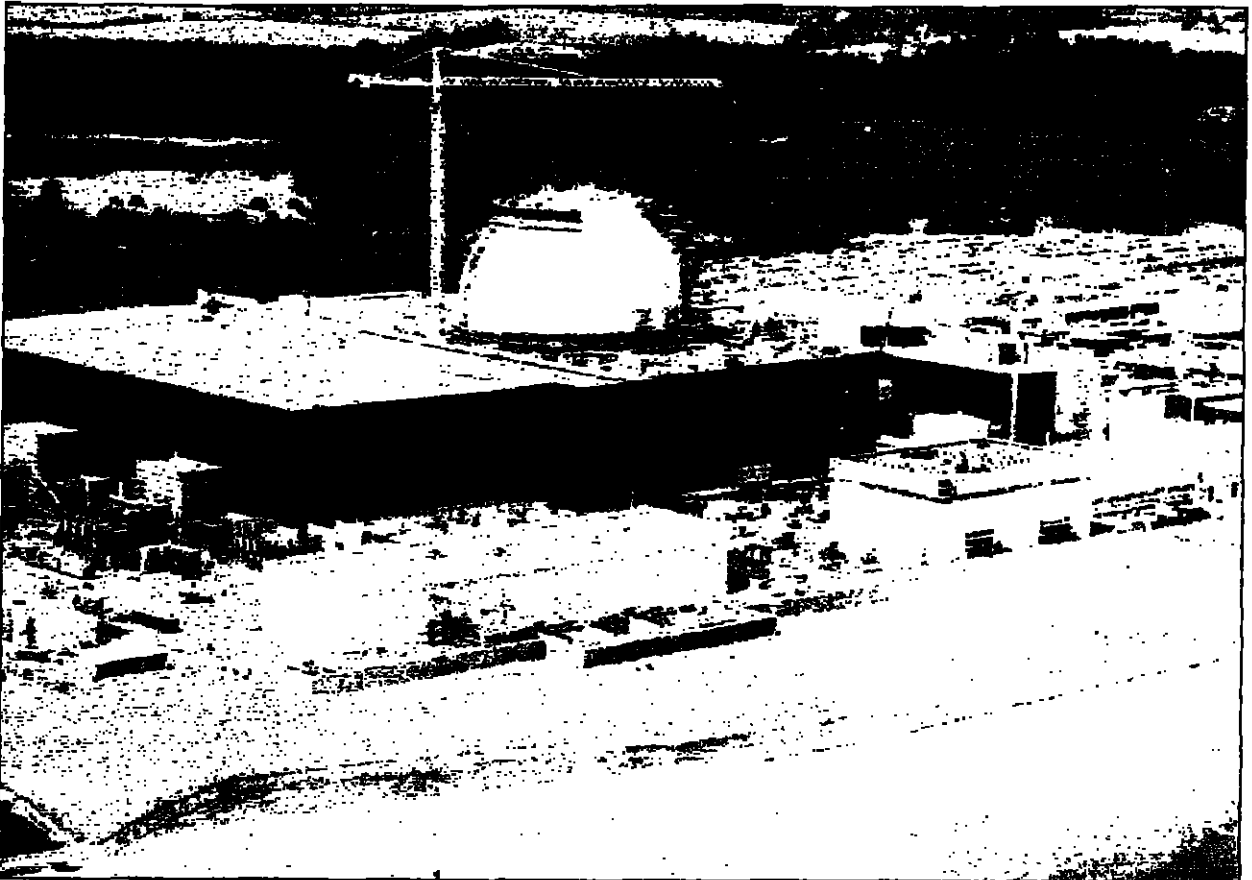
Faced with this difficult decision, the Department of Trade and Industry has been making noises about leaving the judgment to the market. This would mean terms of reference for the review that concentrated on the marketability of nuclear power, en-

abling ministers to leave the decisions to others. Both in terms of ideology and of avoiding political trouble, this approach has a lot to recommend it to ministers. The implications for the industry would, however, be less appealing. Neither National Power nor Powergen is going to build a nuclear plant for them, the game is not worth the candle. Why would they get involved with a difficult and demanding technology when they can quickly build cheaper gas-fired plants?

But how sensible is it to base all new generation on a single fuel? How are the costs of decommissioning existing nuclear plants to be paid if the

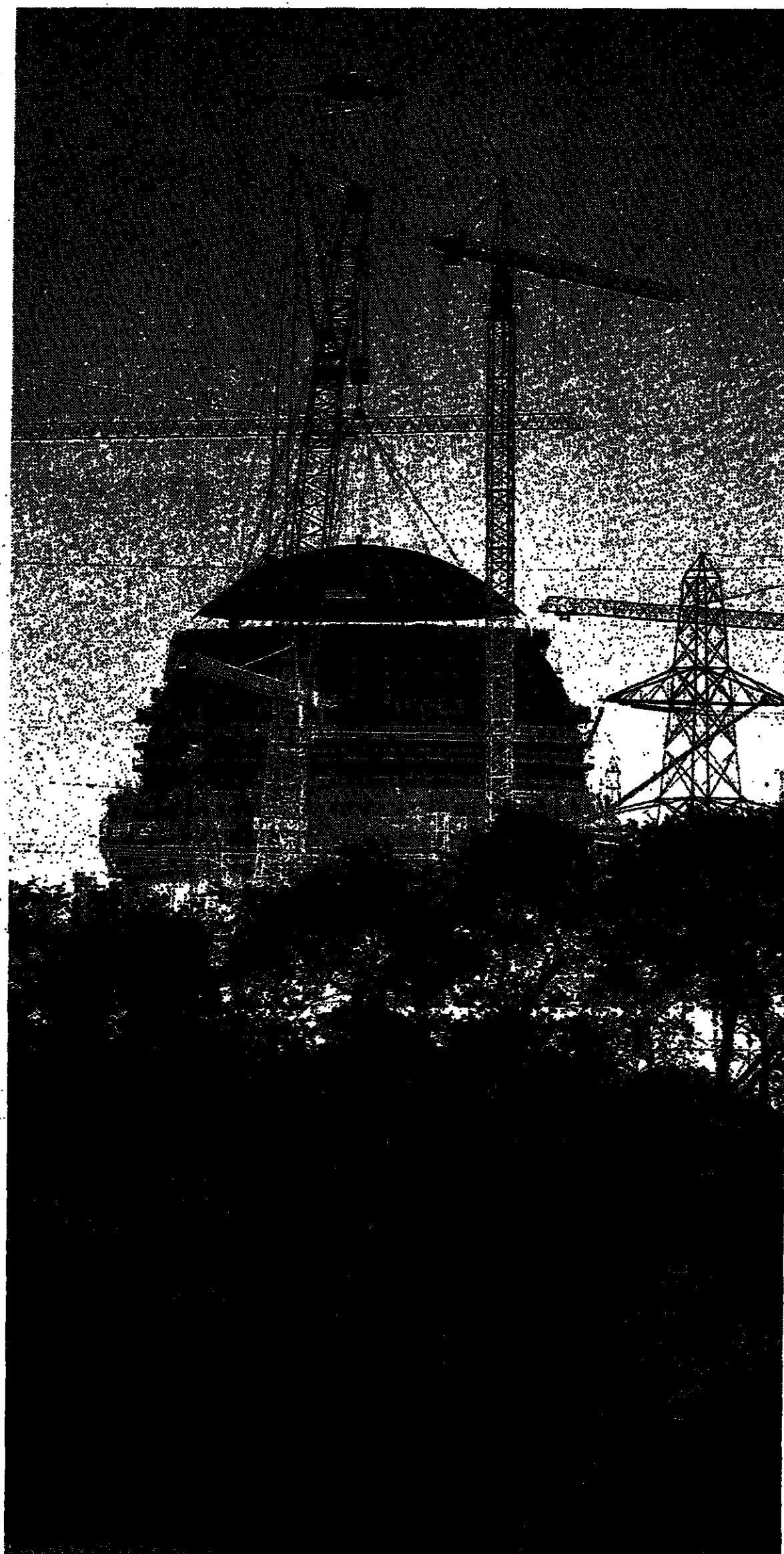
industry is allowed to wither? These are strategic questions that the government has shown every sign of wishing to avoid. But the alternative, making the market king, can only work if all the players are on an equal footing. That would mean privatising Nuclear Electric and Scottish Nuclear, a step that both would welcome.

Since 1989 and the exclusion of nuclear power from privatisation, the industry has performed remarkably well. Nuclear Electric's productivity has increased by 53 per cent, and its market share by 26 per cent. "It's now only a matter of time before Nuclear Electric overtakes PowerGen to take second position in the generator league," NE's chairman, John Collier, boasted recently. But has this improvement come too late?



Nuclear Electric's plant at Sizewell B, Suffolk: Britain's first pressurised water reactor, but does it have a future?

One day, all power stations will be made this way. (On budget and ahead of schedule.)



At Sizewell in Suffolk, Britain's first Pressurised Water Reactor is presently under construction. It's one of the biggest engineering projects ever commissioned in Britain, involving 115 British companies and employing 4,500 people on site. What's more, it's both on budget and well ahead of schedule (to begin generating the first electricity in 1994).

The company responsible for the Sizewell B project is Nuclear Electric plc. We own and run the twelve nuclear power stations in England and Wales, producing well over one fifth of the country's electricity.

Since being formed in 1990, we have performed rather well, with the last twelve months showing nothing but continued improvement.

Output is up, productivity is up and unit production costs are down.

The new addition of Sizewell B to our country's generating capacity will help ensure a balanced energy supply well into the next century. That's because it's no ordinary power station. It's the shape of things to come.

New moves with the old authority

AEA has grasped the commercial nettle to ensure survival

The Atomic Energy Authority, now called AEA, has been at the heart of Britain's nuclear industry for nearly 40 years. But privatisation and moves to increase competition in the energy sector has brought it a new role. AEA describes the move as "from national mission to international enterprise".

The authority was formed in 1954 through the merger of three separate groups established during the second world war, for production, research and weapons. Although it stayed outside the civil service, it remained controlled by the government and funded by the Treasury.

Less than two years later, the world's first commercial reactors were inaugurated at Calder Hall. Designed and operated by AEA, Calder Hall was supplying electricity to the National Grid from the mid-1950s.

For the first ten years of its existence AEA drove forward all aspects of nuclear power in the UK, including the development of weapons, and by 1960 employed more than 40,000 people. It co-operated with similar organisations throughout the world, which gave it an international orientation.

John Maltby, the AEA chairman, says: "The core of our business lies in the technology we evolved for the nuclear industry, where we work at the forefront of the most technically demanding fields."

Much of the technical activity occurred in the early years, when AEA was engaged on pioneering work for military and civil purposes. Ten plutonium reactors were built and

the irradiated fuel reprocessed, and various types of thermal reactor were investigated, as well as fast reactors and fusion reactors.

As the technical programmes evolved, they gave rise to commercial activities, such as selling fuel elements and graphite to the civil power stations. As these matured, it became the practice to spin them off as separate entities or to transfer the technology to commercial organisations.

Since 1965, AEA has progressively widened its fields of operation and its customer base to become a large, diversified organisation trading as

AEA Technology and serving many markets: aerospace and defence, oil and gas, transport and public utilities, environment and safety.

AEA Technology is now one of Europe's leading suppliers of advanced scientific and engineering services, including research, development and technical consultancy at six main centres.

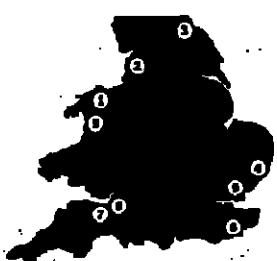
Ken Currie, the head of business strategy, says: "Most of our customers represent traditional nuclear business but their requirements are in decline, so AEA is actively developing new business. While 70 per cent of business is nuclear and 30 per cent industrial, one of AEA's aims is to expand the industrial side to 50 per cent."

The company is well into its third year as a truly commercial enterprise. Profits increased by 50 per cent to £28 million in its 1991-92 financial year. But AEA also has to cope with substantial liabilities, estimated at up to £8 billion, arising from its nuclear past.

RODNEY HOBSON



John Maltby: chairman, AEA



Nuclear Electric's power stations in England and Wales. 1. Wylla 2. Heysham 1 & 2 3. Hartlepool 4. Sizewell A & B 5. Bradwell 6. Dungeness A & B 7. Hinkley Point A & B 8. Oldbury-on-Severn 9. Trawsfynydd. If you would like to visit a nuclear power station, or would like more information, write to: Peter Haslam, Nuclear Electric plc, 123 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5EA.



Nuclear Electric

Thorp plant in doubt

At Sellafield in Cumbria, a huge and glittering new plant has been built, partly at the expense of foreigners. It has guaranteed work, and assured profits, for at least ten years.

Yet the government is now hovering over whether the plant should even be allowed to open. It could only happen in nuclear power.

The plant, of course, is Thorp, the thermal oxide reprocessing plant built after a hard-fought public inquiry ruled in its favour more than 15 years ago. Thorp's job is to take in spent nuclear fuel rods from reactors in Britain and abroad, dissolve them in acid, and recover uranium, plutonium and high-level nuclear waste.

In its first ten years of operation, Thorp has contracts to reprocess 7,000 tons of spent fuel, more than 2,600 tons from Japan alone, at prices that should guarantee profits of at least £500 million.

When Thorp was first conceived, this was seen as both the most economical and the most environmentally sound way of dealing with nuclear power's leftovers. Not only could uranium and plutonium be recovered from the spent fuel, but the high-level waste could be concentrated into a form that made its long-term storage easier and safer.

Events have undermined this plan. Far from the expected shortage of freshly mined uranium, there is something of a glut, making the economics of recycling doubtful. Many governments, including

Britain's reprocessing 'profitmaker' has yet to open, says Nigel Hawkes

that of America, now believe that nuclear waste can be stored more safely in the form of spent fuel rods, without reprocessing. This avoids the messiest part of the nuclear fuel cycle and eliminates international trade in plutonium, with its potential for spreading nuclear weapons.

Mr Justice Parker, now Lord Justice Parker, heard all these arguments at the Windscale Inquiry in 1974 and was not convinced. But today the future of Thorp depends on the view taken by government ministers.

British Nuclear Fuels, whose future depends on approval for Thorp, is conducting a determined battle. Recently it released a letter from the 10 Japanese companies whose spent fuel it will reprocess, expressing confidence that the plant will open. The delay was "rather regrettable" the letter said, but all the Japanese customers still strongly support the project. Small wonder: if it does not open, they will all have to think fast over what to do with their spent fuel.

Scottish Nuclear has decided

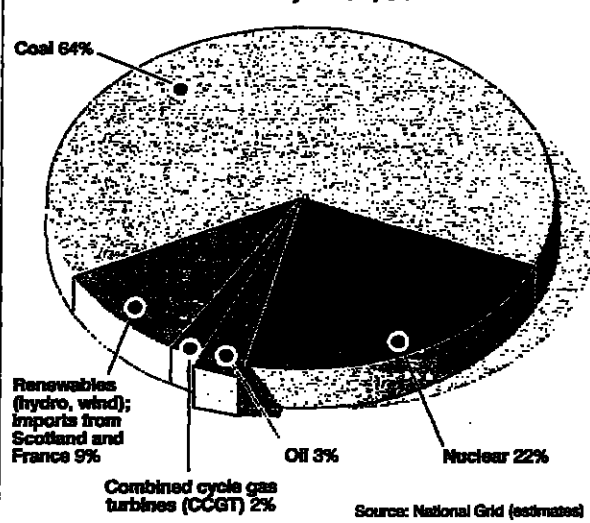
already that it would be cheaper and no more dangerous to store its spent fuel permanently in vaults built at Torness power station in East Lothian. This proposal has now been considered by a public inquiry, which is reported to have concluded that "the reprocessing route no longer appears to offer any immediate and significant advantages from a waste disposal point of view." The inquiry's reporter (inspector) concluded that the spent fuel was, effectively, waste, unlikely to be reprocessed or used for any other future purpose.

If the government should agree, the £185 billion invested in Thorp, and the £9 billion in advance orders, will be rejected. The issue is so complex, however, that it is likely that a decision will be deferred until the autumn.

Waste disposal is also facing tricky times. UK Nirex, charged with finding a safe way of storing waste, would like to construct an underground depository at Sellafield. Attempts to find possible sites elsewhere in Britain would have met with such a storm of local opposition that Nirex opted for Sellafield, already the location for Britain's largest store of above-ground nuclear waste.

The task is now to prove the site is safe. The main aim is to study the movement of water surrounding the position of the proposed repository in rock 650 metres below sea level. So far, the drilling has found no insuperable obstacles, but nor has it proved that Sellafield would be safe.

FUEL SOURCES FOR ELECTRICITY GENERATION IN ENGLAND AND WALES, 1992/93

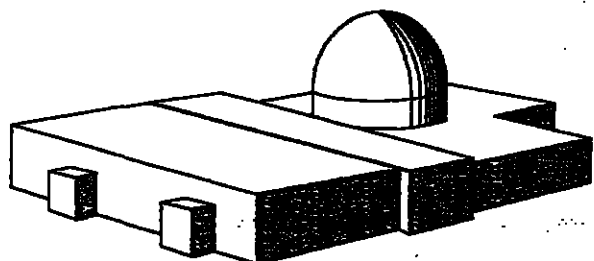


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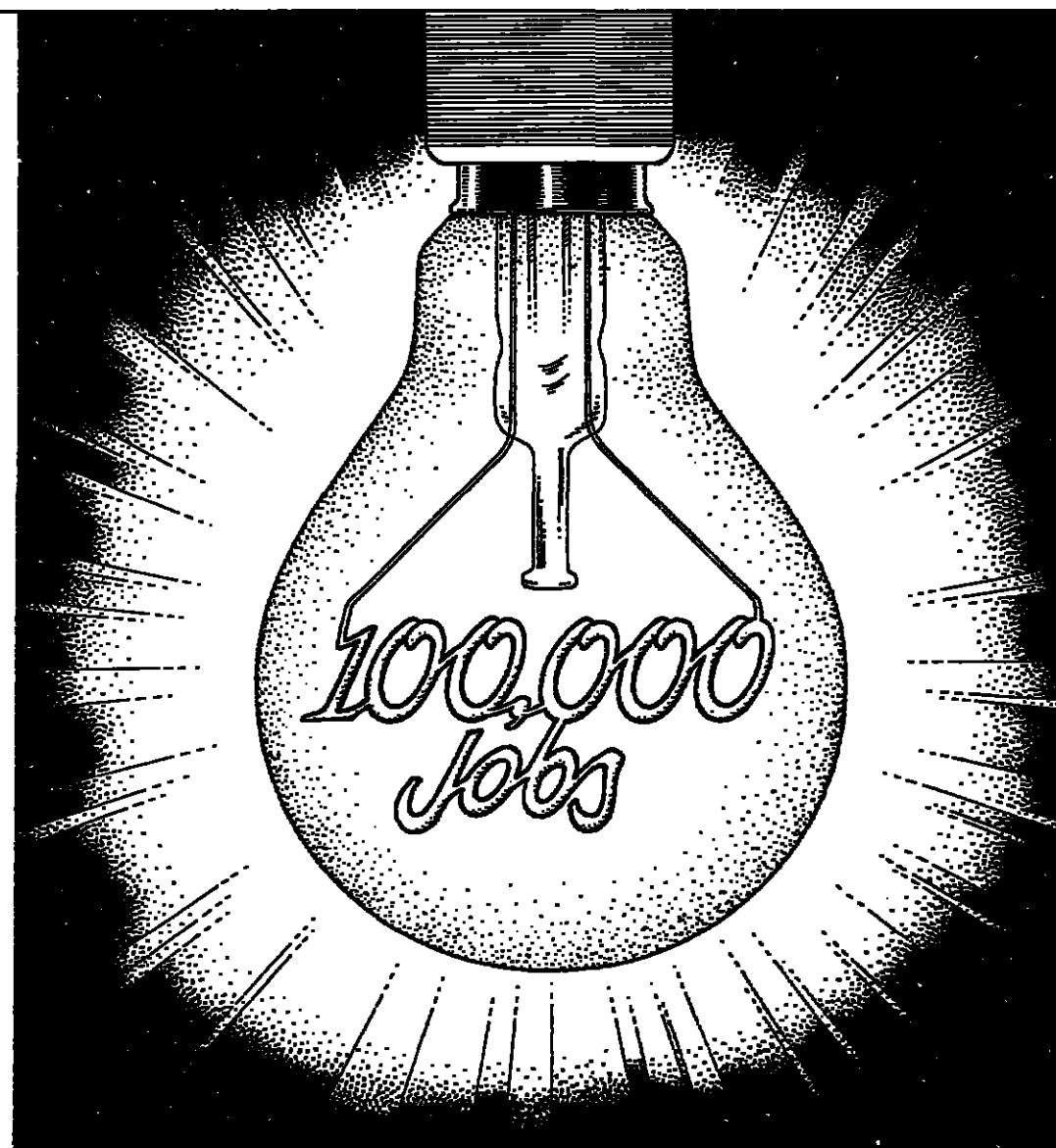
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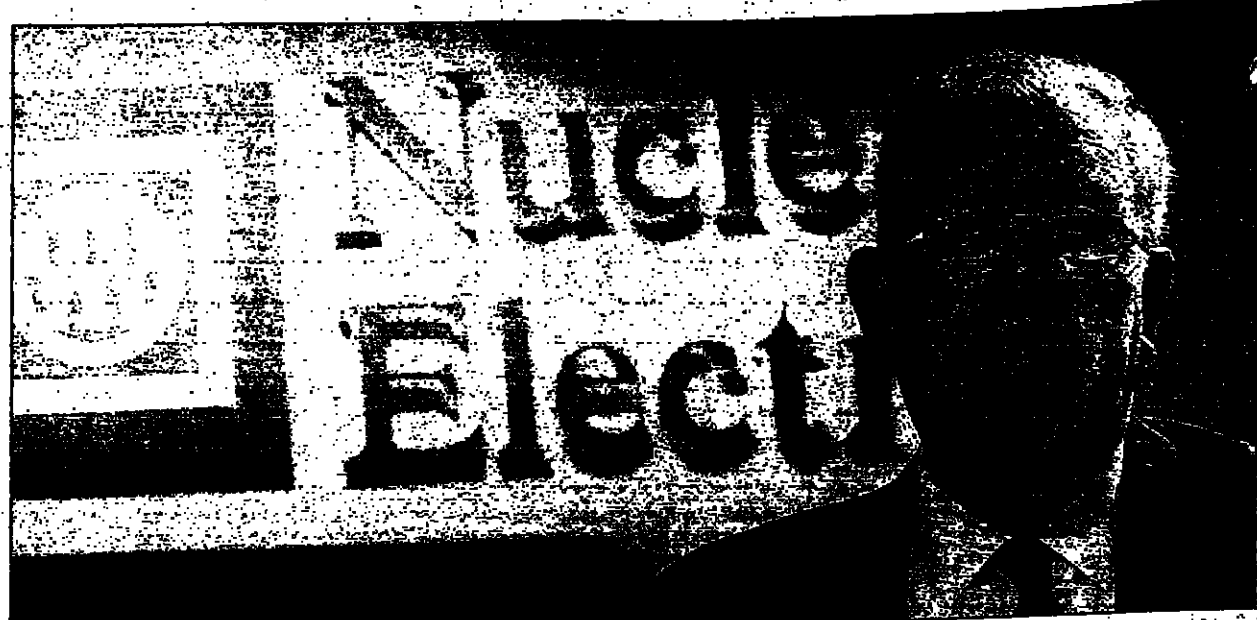


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nuclear energy for the 21st century



Energy field: John Collier, chairman of Nuclear Electric, wants to operate six to eight PWRs on two or three sites.

Market share growing

Power stations will meet a quarter of UK needs, reports Derek Harris

Nuclear-generated electricity is likely to account for a quarter of the total electricity market in England and Wales by the turn of the century. It means a growth in market share approaching 15 per cent for Nuclear Electric, the state-owned generator, whose current share stands at almost 22 per cent.

This is forecast by the National Grid Company, the transmission operator jointly owned by the 12 regional electricity companies, which sees natural gas accounting for at least another quarter of the market by the year 2000. At the same time coal, which at the turn of the decade accounted for 70 per cent of electricity production, is likely to be down to about 40 per cent of market share.

The balance will come from power imports, such as electricity cabled in from France and Scotland, renewable sources such as hydropower and wind, and oil-fired power generation.

John Utley, National Grid's finance director, sketched out a five-year prospect for the industry at an Institute of Energy conference and then National Grid produced its latest analysis on how the electricity market is likely to develop over the next seven years.

In the seven-year analysis National Grid is forecasting faster growth for the electricity

market in England and Wales compared with a year ago when it looked to an annual growth rate of 1.1 per cent a year. Now average growth is expected to be at 1.6 per cent.

Mr Utley expects more competition to develop in the contracts market in which supply deals are struck directly between generators and users, mostly industrial. Regulation changes are progressively opening up the contracts market to smaller industrial customers. The total market is otherwise known as the pool with all electricity primarily bought and sold through it, although all but really big users have in the past bought their supplies through the regional electricity companies.

Mr Utley underlined the uncertainties in assessing how the market was likely to develop by setting out two main scenarios. However some of the main trends for the present decade are relatively clear, with a steady build-up of nuclear-generated power likely and a marked decline of coal's share.

The main question mark is over the growth of cheap-to-build, flexible combined-cycle gas turbine (CCGT) plants. These have been an attractive option for incoming competitors in power generation like

the regional electricity companies. The trade department most recently gave consent for one of the biggest CCGT stations so far, a £500 million 1,360 MW (megawatt) station planned for Connaught Quay, north Wales, by PowerGen, the smaller of Britain's two big generators.

In 1991 nuclear had 18 per cent of the market while natural gas was not yet on the scene. By this year gas had taken a 2 per cent share just as nuclear climbed further and coal declined to 64 per cent.

Two CCGT stations are producing and, with current construction, a dozen of these plants seem certain to be operational. However, there has been recent cancellation of transmission contracts involving six other CCGT stations, which had been planned in the period when many new would-be generators contemplated a dash into gas.

At one time it looked as if the rush into gas would eventually create excess generating capacity of up to 40 per cent but the CCGT fallback, plus the closure of more old coal-fired plants, has led to much more manageable margin projections, possibly as little as 24 per cent. Internationally usually at least a 20 per cent margin is looked for.

With the government's review of the nuclear industry brought forward to this year Nuclear Electric is polishing its costing arguments. Its five AGR (advanced gas-cooled reactor) stations now generate cash and it believes pressurised water reactors (PWRs) will be competitive on price.

The first PWR being constructed at Sizewell B on the Suffolk coast is running ahead of schedule and should begin loading fuel in the autumn with the prospect of supplying the grid in about 12 months' time. John Collier, chairman of Nuclear Electric, wants to build dual replicas of the PWR at the same site, to be known as Sizewell C, and then to go on to operate a total of six to eight PWRs on two or three sites around the country. Plans for a PWR at Hinkley Point C are well advanced.

If the nuclear industry is to maintain its presence in the market some new stations will be needed by the turn of the century when the old Magnox nuclear stations will all have reached the end of their extended lives.

The PWRs will be price competitive even when the 5-cpex transfer subsidy has run out in five years, it is claimed. Overall Nuclear Electric after three years of record output growth expects to be in operating profit in the financial year 1995-96 and this will be before levy income is taken into account.

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صلى الله عليه وسلم

A moratorium on progress

The industry wants the government to think long-term, looking to energy needs in the 21st century, Derek Harris writes

An ending of the government moratorium on the construction of more nuclear power stations is what the British Nuclear Industry Forum (BNIF) would most like to see. The BNIF is the trade association for Britain's nuclear industry. The 70 members cover a wide span of specialist manufacturers and the four main interlocking nuclear utilities. These include Nuclear Electric and Scottish Nuclear, which are the state-owned power generators; British Nuclear Fuels plc (BNFL), a nuclear waste processor; and state-owned AEA Technology, which has led nuclear research and development and has headquarters at Harwell, Oxfordshire.

Michael Heseltine, the President of the Board of Trade, who has brought forward the government review of the nuclear industry into this year, is likely to have the subject of the nuclear moratorium at the top of his list when he returns to work.

A short-term view of nuclear operations would be to accept the case that can be made on commercial grounds for cutting back on future nuclear expansion because of its high costs. Nuclear Electric will be getting large sums of money for another five years, levied from energy users, mainly to pay for decommissioning costs.

It is the long-term potential of nuclear power that finds favour in government circles. If the technology

was sound, it could become the cheapest form of large volume power generation in the 21st century. It also benefits from an environmental argument as being the cleanest form of fuel as far as planned emissions are concerned, apart from wind, tidal and hydro power.

Dr John Gittus, the director general of the forum, points to the way Nuclear Electric is seeing operating profits springing from its AGR (advanced gas cooled reactor) stations and the prospective competitiveness of PWR (pressurised water reactor) units, the first of which is under construction at Sizewell B in Suffolk. Nuclear Electric claims to be on target to break even on its operations in the 1995-96 financial year, without taking account of levy income. NE also argues that the more PWR stations that are built, the more the unit costs will come down.

Scottish Nuclear, which has two AGR stations at Torness and Hunterston B, is already in profit. Dr Gittus says: "It is, clearly, a potential candidate for privatisation. There is also an argument for privatising part of Nuclear Electric, the more modern, profitable stations forming the basis of a privatised operation. The older Magnox stations, now nearing the end of their lives and with



John Gittus, director-general of the British Nuclear Forum

decommissioning costs looming, could remain a state responsibility, leaving the nuclear levy cash specifically devoted to decommissioning and historical costs.

The forum has offered close support for export drives by its members. Nuclear Electric has joined forces with America's Westinghouse to

tender for a power station in Taiwan, which would be a copy of Sizewell B, based on Westinghouse's PWR designs but with additional design and safety features.

The British nuclear industry provided almost everything for Sizewell B — 96 per cent of the money went to British companies — and Nuclear Electric has estimated that securing the Taiwan contract could produce £1 billion in export orders for British companies, creating work for 10,000 people in Britain.

Nuclear Electric is also eyeing the South Korean and Turkish markets. The forum recently organised a trade mission for its members to South Korea, holding a seminar there and visiting the key nuclear companies. South Korea could be looking to build as many as 18 more nuclear power stations. Dr Gittus says: "We were widely welcomed, which showed how the South Koreans saw that the British industry, with its depths of experience, could readily supply them with both hardware and software."

There could be more lucrative export potential in exploiting British know-how developed by AEA in carrying through the fast breeder reactor exploratory programme at Dounreay in Scotland, argues Dr

Gittus. The fast breeder, which recycles fuel many times, could be a growing basis for nuclear power technology in the next century. The Japanese are already thinking along these lines, Dr Gittus says.

AEA, which has been exploiting its specialist techniques by applying them to non-nuclear fields, is probably the closest of the four nuclear utilities to being ready for privatisation.

Dr Gittus is critical at the continued delay for the start-up of the controversial Thorp (thermal oxide reprocessing plant) built by BNFL at Sellafield, Cumbria over the past 10 years, at a cost of £2.8 billion. The delay is eroding BNFL's profits at the rate of £2 million a week. However, the company has made a breakthrough in America gaining a key role in a £65 million contract for designing a nuclear waste treatment centre near Richland, Washington.

Dr Gittus says that the forum's members, which include leading companies such as GEC-Alsthom, the Anglo-French combine, Rolls Royce, IMI, Vespene Thornycroft, W.S. Atkins and Frances Kier Construction need a strong home market. He says: "The plans of the nuclear utilities, if realised, will supply this and will enable the industry to build up its export markets. The case for maintaining a strong nuclear industry in the United Kingdom is sound, based on the industry's achievements and prospects."



Profitable reaction: modern reactors such as the one at Torness (above) have increased Scottish Nuclear profits

Watching for the white elephant

Rodney Hobson on the battle over the Thorp project

Let's be clear about it. The ten Japanese utility companies want THORP.

Not everyone does. Few of the nuclear controversies of the past 40 years have come close to the one ranging round the thermal oxide reprocessing plant (Thorp) that British Nuclear Fuels (BNFL) has built at Sellafield in Cumbria.

The Japanese utilities were wheeled out in support after a Japanese pressure group had placed an advertisement claiming that the UK would become a dustbin for nuclear waste, that Japan would not take back the recycled plutonium that Thorp would provide.

The fear that Sellafield would turn into a radioactive dustbin for the world's nuclear waste has helped to turn Thorp from a prestige project for BNFL into a potential white elephant.

British Nuclear Fuels was formed in 1971 to manufacture and reprocess nuclear fuel and is now one of Britain's biggest exporters. Apart from Sellafield, it has fuel manufacturing operations near Preston, a uranium enrichment plant at Capenhurst, Cheshire, and operates two long-

running Magnox power stations — employing 15,000 people on five sites in north-west England and southern Scotland.

The Thorp plant has cost £2.8 billion and taken ten years to build. It was completed in January and is awaiting a government licence to begin turning nuclear fuel into reusable uranium and plutonium. BNFL claims that every week of delay costs £2 million.

About 5,000 tons of spent fuel is held in storage pending approval for the start-up. Yet the government continues to postpone a decision on whether to go ahead amid warnings about discharges from the plant. Greenpeace, the environmental group, would almost certainly mount a court challenge to any go-ahead without a public enquiry.

The final decision will rest with John Gummer, the new environment secretary, who is a supporter of the nuclear industry. However, he faces competing interests elsewhere in the government. The Department of Health is concerned about radiation; the Department of Trade and Industry is BNFL's shareholder; and the Foreign Office is conscious of relations with foreign customers.

Independent advice backs programme

Independent advice on designing, building, running and decommissioning nuclear power stations is provided by NNC, a company with 40 years' experience in the nuclear power industry.

It has been responsible for designing and building most of the commercial nuclear power stations in the UK, including all the advanced gas-cooled reactors (AGRs), plus the Magnox reactors in Japan and Italy, Rodney Hobson writes.

Over the years NNC has absorbed five consortia originally formed to build the UK's commercial nuclear power stations and it became a wholly-owned subsidiary of GEC in 1988. It has 1,700 staff based at Knutsford, Cheshire, and Risley, near Warrington.

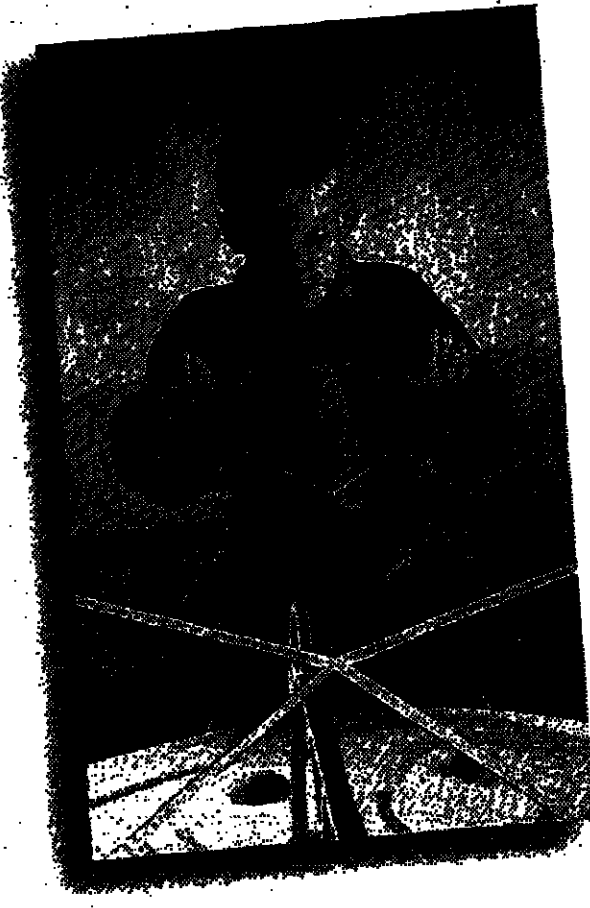
More than 1,000 are scientists and engineers.

The company is the UK authority on fast reactor design. Together with Siemens of Germany and Novatome of France, it makes up the European Fast Reactor Associates, a grouping that is working on the design of a fast reactor intended to satisfy all European requirements.

NNC holds the pressurised water reactor design licence from Westinghouse, the American group, and has a joint venture with Westinghouse, PWR Power Projects, for a significant part of the Sizewell B project. Britain's only PWR nuclear station.

NNC is currently securing contracts in Eastern Europe where it is helping to introduce Western standards.

Last year, over 100,000 people accepted our invitation. Not all of them accepted our point of view.



Every year, more than 100,000 people come to the Sellafield Visitors Centre in West Cumbria. In doing so they not only learn about British Nuclear Fuels (BNFL), its work and its role in the nuclear industry, but also enjoy a day out in one of the most beautiful and interesting corners of Britain.

For as well as being situated close to dramatic mountains and unspoiled lakes, this spacious, permanent exhibition is also surrounded by a wealth of other unique and appealing attractions - from haunted castles and picturesque hamlets to steam railways and outstanding museums.

But what makes the Visitors Centre so incredibly popular are the animated displays, computer quizzes, multi-screen presentations and working models, all of

which give a fascinating insight into the world of nuclear energy.

Not everyone who visits the Centre goes away convinced, of course. But at least they go with a much clearer idea of what really happens at places like Sellafield. And that's what the Centre is all about.

If you too would like to come to the Sellafield Visitors Centre, it is open every day of the year except for Christmas Day and admission is free. For further details, phone Seascale (09467) 27027.

Ours is an open invitation, we hope yours is an open mind.

BNFL

BRITISH NUCLEAR FUELS

Prepared to privatise

The nuclear power stations, withdrawn from the electricity privatisation package in 1989, now look a far better prospect than coal as the next government energy sell-off.

Operating profits at Nuclear Electric, the state-owned undertaking that operates all 12 commercial nuclear power stations in England and Wales, are expected to increase by 50 per cent to more than £700 million in the year to March.

The setting up of a single company to run all the nuclear power stations in England and Wales "was the best thing that happened to the industry in a long time," John Collier, the

Nuclear Electric is pressing to go private, Rodney Hobson writes

chairman of Nuclear Electric says. "It is only a matter of time before Nuclear Electric overtakes Powergen to take second place in the generator league," he says.

Mr Collier says his company's market share has increased by a quarter since 1989 to reach 21.6 per cent. In that period, electricity sales have increased 29 per cent while manpower has reduced 20 per cent. Profit figures include a £1.3 billion a year nuclear levy imposed on the electricity industry when the government

appeared to be stuck with a permanent loss maker.

Mr Collier says that further improvements in productivity will be achieved, before the levy expires in 1997-98 and that Nuclear Electric will be profitable on its own by 1995-96, but because Magnox stations require more manpower there will be no big reductions in staffing.

Mr Collier expects to be employing 9,000 people in three years but says: "Further reductions will come only as we progress to operating large

power stations. Ultimately we could, with an all-PWR fleet, be down to half that figure."

Nuclear Electric's enthusiasm to join the private sector was reflected this month in the appointment of Price Waterhouse, the accountant, as financial adviser on its future business strategy, including private sector finance.

Obstacles to privatisation remain, however, particularly the cost of decommissioning power stations reaching the end of their life. Mr Collier says that Nuclear Electric can meet all its obligations from existing market revenue.

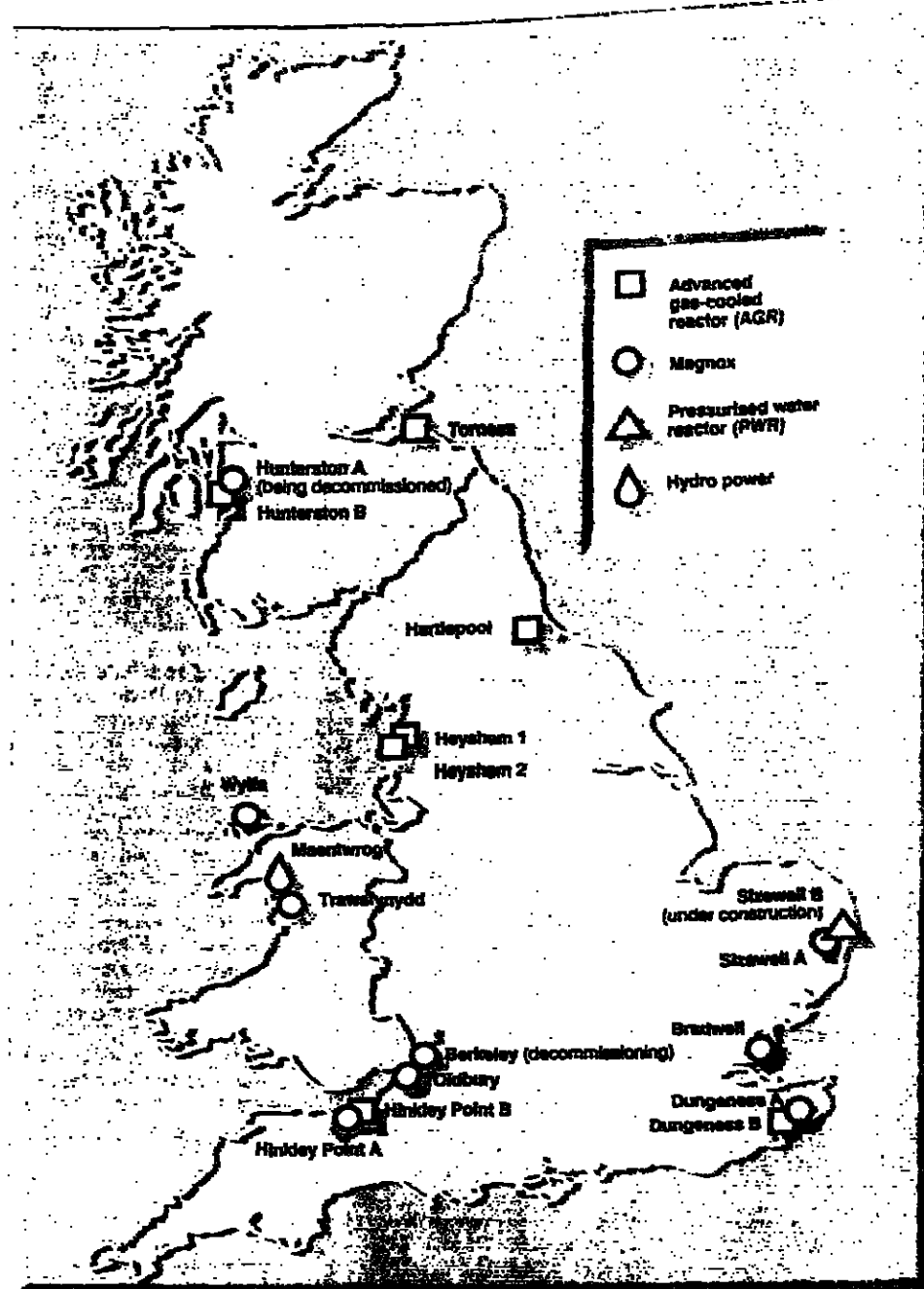
He says: "We need the nuclear levy only to finance the decommissioning and waste management liabilities incurred by our predecessor, the Central Electricity Generating Board, for the period before Nuclear Electric was formed."

"In practice, Nuclear Electric will be a strong cash-flow generator for years to come. It will be able to meet all its responsibilities, past and

present, without any further handouts from the government after 1995."

Mr Collier is more concerned about the distortions caused to the energy industry as a whole by having two major sources of power, nuclear energy and coal, remaining in the public sector. He says: "There is no doubt that this short-termism in the market poses big problems for investment in capital intensive means of electricity generation and to industry in general."

Before the coal review, Nuclear Electric was able to negotiate contracts with its customers offering stable prices up to six years into the future. Now, after the events of the past six months, the customer regional electricity companies are so uncertain about what future market opportunities and prices will be that they are only prepared to contract one year or less. The events of the past six months have had little to do with establishing and maintaining free markets."



Scotland plans a canny future

Scottish Nuclear, relying on a well-tried formula of children, dogs and Dr Finlay

country-side, is inviting a wide audience on television to "come and see" just what it is up to at its two stations. The message is delivered by ten-year-old Jamie McGregor and his border collie Meg.

Undoubtedly, the company's determination to overcome what its chairman James Hann once described as "the doghouse of public opprobrium" is paying off.

In the past two years, 50,000 people have visited its advanced gas-cooled reactor stations at Hunterston B, in Ayrshire, and Torness, in East Lothian.

High-tech visitor centres have been opened, coaches are sent to collect parties, a mobile exhibition tours the country. The company sponsors training courses for young people aboard the Fairbridge charity

schooner *The Spirit of Scotland*.

A recent survey by British Nuclear Forum suggests that support in Scotland for nuclear power is increasing. Half the country's electricity needs are met from Hunterston and Torness, a far higher proportion than south of the border.

Scottish Nuclear's targets extend much further than achieving public confidence. Last year it achieved a breakthrough in its efforts to achieve profitability. Losses were transformed into a profit of nearly £14 million.

"So far so good," said Mr Hann. "But the company has a long way to go before we can be satisfied with our financial performance." This year has seen a jump in net profit to £66 million, operating costs cut by 8 per cent a unit, output up by 13 per cent, and sales up 10 per cent to £523 million. With an

autumn review of the nuclear industry in its sights, the company is adopting a canny stance. "We're aiming to be privatisable. Whatever the outcome, we want to be commercially attractive," Mr Hann says.

"The industry will be judged on how it has maintained its excellent safety record: on its ability to demonstrate that it can deliver electricity at the market price and make a profit; and whether it has convinced the British public that nuclear power is a much-needed and acceptable form of generation."

The company has laid down markers in a number of directions. Hunterston has established a world record for

continuous operation and has outstripped its UK rivals in production.

All the output from Hunterston and Torness is sold to Scottish Power and Scottish Hydro-Electric who have been able to boast the lowest domestic tariffs in Britain.

A critical element in the drive for improved profitability is its bid to end its dependence on Sellafield for handling spent fuel and build its own dry fuel store at Torness.

If it gets the go-ahead, the company hopes that Torness could be operating by late 1995, with a similar installation at Hunterston a year later. The result could be a

saving of about £45 million a year. The decommissioning of Hunterston A Magnox station — until 1988 one of the world's top ten best performers — is expected to be complete in the spring of 1995. Life extensions to the two existing stations and improved techniques in decommissioning are likely to provide significant cost benefits for the future.

Scottish Nuclear's growing confidence is reflected in its new headquarters on the Peel Park campus at East Kilbride in Lanarkshire, where the emphasis is on environmental correctness — a high-tech structure, a pleasant place to work in a landscaped setting.

ALAN JENKINS

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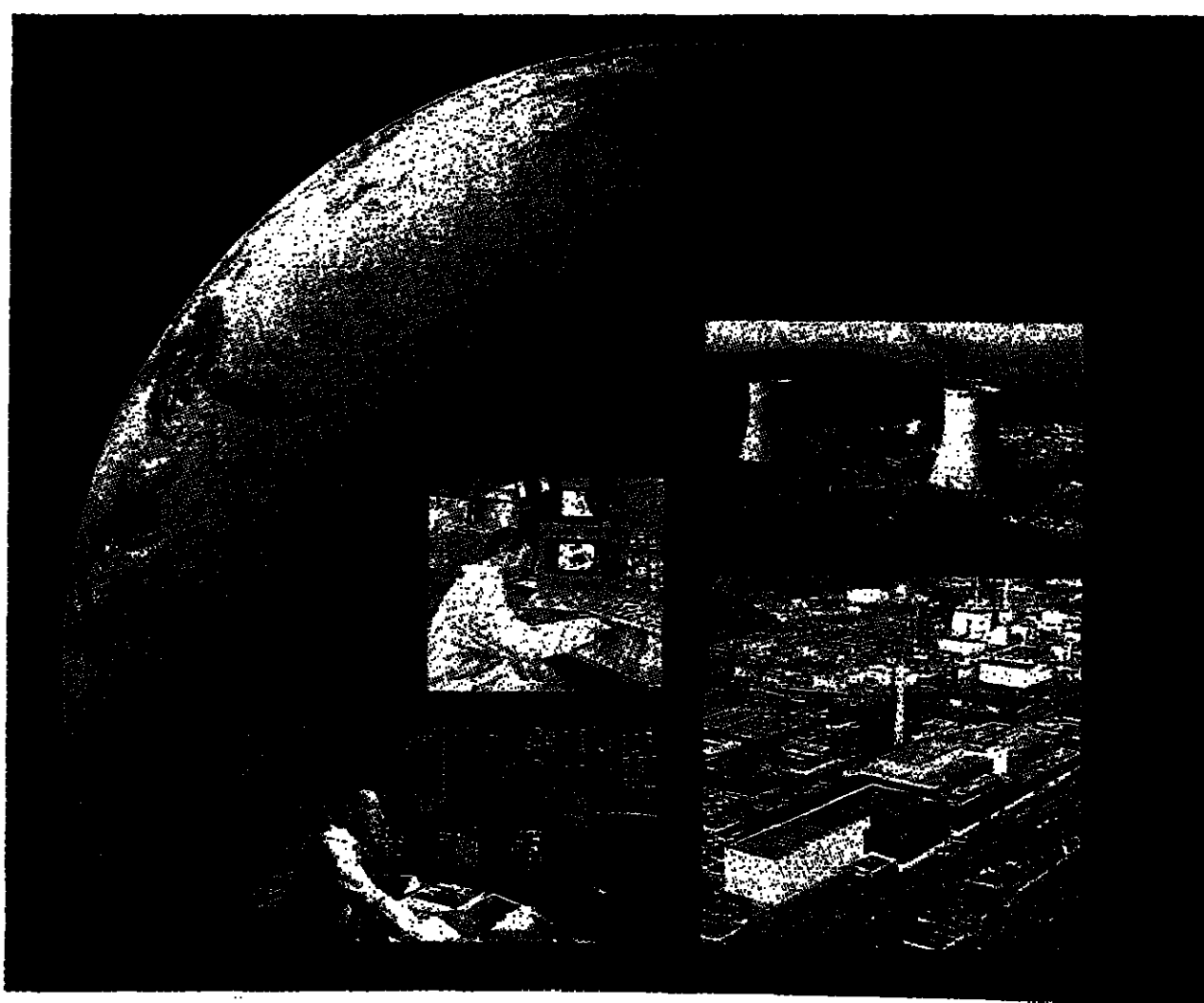
Low-level waste, such as steel and rubble from the decommissioning of nuclear plants, will be packed into steel drums or boxes and intermediate-level waste will be concreted into stainless steel drums or steel or concrete boxes.

This project will meet the country's disposal needs for 50 years and it will safeguard the environment for tens of thousands of years after that.

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MUSIC page 38

Jessye Norman, whose personality proved impossible to submerge in a Schoenberg piece

ARTS

BOOKS page 39

Kenneth Williams: His diaries reveal a man without satisfactory emotional outlet



Unquestionably provocative

David Mamet's play *Oleanna*, which has generated a public debate in America on 'political correctness', opens in Britain this week. Andy Lavender reports

If ever a piece of drama was announced by flashing lights and outcries, *Oleanna* is it. David Mamet's latest play was premiered last autumn in Cambridge, Massachusetts, before playing off-Broadway in New York. It provoked venomous debate across America, and may have the same effect in this country when it opens at London's Royal Court Theatre on Wednesday.

The play is a two-hander and is deceptively simple in structure. Act I: Carol, a student, goes for advice to John, her college professor. She appears to be rather slow, he seems rather pompous. At one point in their discussion he puts his hand comfortably on her shoulder. Act II: Carol has reported John for attempted rape and his career is on the line. She accuses him of being sexist, classist, elitist and paternalistic; and to this list of charges adds a list of books which she demands are prohibited forthwith — including the tome which represents the pinnacle of his academic achievement.

Coming hot on the heels of the lawsuit in which Judge Clarence Thomas was accused of harassment by his ex-aide Anita Hill, *Oleanna* tapped into America's growing obsession with 'political correctness'. According to adherents of PC, the books we study and the language we speak are saturated with the pernicious values of a white, male-oriented culture. The argument in America has gone beyond polite questions as to whether 'managers' is a sexist term. It is whether PC represents liberation from repression, or cultural terrorism in its own right.

This is the arena which Mamet entered, like a cat into Battersea Dogs Home. Many stories have crossed the Atlantic telling of *Oleanna*'s vivid effect on audiences. One of the most revealing concerns the performance where a handful of people applauded when John takes a revenge of sorts on Carol. "Let's find those guys who clapped," said a woman when the lights went up at the end.

Oleanna begs three immediate questions. Does the play endorse one side of the argument or the other? Will it have anything like the same effect in Britain, where reports of PC have provoked benign

amusement more often than calls to arms? And what does this, an American import, imply about the failure of British drama to whip up debate on this scale about issues of immediate public relevance?

The jury is still out on the first point. Mamet has come under fire for writing plays and screenplays set in resoundingly macho worlds: think of *Sexual Fervency* in Chicago, *Glengarry Glen Ross*, or even his film *House of Games*. He expressed his support for the boxer Mike Tyson during Tyson's appeal against his conviction for rape. And it seems that in *Oleanna* he has given Carol all the accoutrements — from Doc Martens on her feet to chips on her shoulder — with which

'It is the business of art to provoke, and at times to incite'

certain men usually garland feminists. He is, it seems, a spokesman (gender intended) for the strutting masculine tendency.

Against that, his play has been admired precisely for not taking a stand. The two performers in the English production have gone on record as saying that their own particular character is the more wronged. Given that Harold Pinter directs the English production, one might expect a dark ambiguity to reign over the proceedings.

The play comes to London as part of the Royal Court's American season, Stephen Daldry's first public move as the Court's artistic director. "Like all good plays, *Oleanna* goes beyond the particular," says Daldry, confident that it will appeal to a British audience. "It becomes an archetypal play about the roles of men and women. It is certainly the business of art to provoke, and at times to incite. But it is not so important that theatre gives answers as that it exposes the question correctly."

That should not be confused with blandness, for there is an in-your-face quality about Mamet's work, and indeed he has argued that a kind of provocative detachment is the artist's prerogative. "As a playwright I have no political responsibility," he said in answer to a student who accused him of ambiguity. "I'm an artist. I write plays, not political propaganda. I don't have the answers."

Which brings us to our third question. Where are the British plays which stir up such buzzing disputation about our own culture? It would be banal to suggest that this is the only job of playwrights, who on the contrary have the licence to be as frivolous or escapist as they please. But it is surely not too much to hope that theatre will rediscover its role as the catalyst of controversy.

At the risk of being branded a traditionalist, it is worth pointing out that around a hundred years ago London was chattering back at the plays of Shaw and Ibsen, writers who strode into the public arena with no other desire (apart from a touch of self-promotion on Shaw's part) than to hold up for public inspection the dirty washing of their age. Only a lunatic would claim that Ibsen is the man for the 1990s, but the point is that we should be a little less eager to keep presenting *Ghosts*, and a little more eager to encourage playwrights to produce public plays about our own times.

Where are they, the writers of these resonant works? The accepted wisdom — Daldry offers this line as well — is that scribes today are more concerned with private emotions than public issues. This seems a regrettable lack of ambition and means that, where Bernard Shaw looked to Scandinavia for deliverance, we must now look to America. Arthur Miller, with *The Last Yankee* currently in the West End, has for years been a monolith of theatrical humanism. Mamet is a tougher cookie, but has Miller's habit of asking uncomfortable questions of his audiences. And we can look forward to the full two-part version of Tony Kushner's *Angels in America* at the National Theatre later this year, a play of epic proportions addressing AIDS, US Republicanism and the erosion



Student and professor: Carol (Lia Williams, rear) comes to John (David Suchet) for advice

of personal decency; and that was just the first part.

Britain does have a pretender to the Ibsenite throne in David Hare, whose trilogy of plays on establishment England is concluded this autumn when *The Absence of War* opens at the National. The play

takes as its central character the leader of the Labour Party, one plain George Jones, who is seeking the highest office.

One hopes that *The Absence of War* will stir up the volume of discussion that *Oleanna* has in America, in which case it will be

doing well. What *Oleanna* has already proved is that theatre can still strike a raw nerve that you did not even know you had: and show it to be a raw one at that.

● *Oleanna* previews tonight and tomorrow, opens Wednesday at the Royal Court (071-730 1745).

TELEVISION

Teasing out this thin tale

The trailer was repeated so often last week that its contents were finally dinned into the brain. "Scandal threatens Lady Chatterley!" it declared excitedly; then cut to beetle-browed housekeeper Mrs Bolton playing bowls on the lawn with Sir Clifford. "That Bertha Mellors, she grinneth, aiming and swinging and letting fly, 'tis nuthink but trouble!" More snippets of high sensationalism followed, with wheelchair-bound Sir Clifford struggling to embrace his wife; a half-naked, beaten-up Mellors trundled pale and unconscious on an open cart (gasps of "Not" from Sean Bean admirers around the land); and pretty Lady Chatterley (Joely Richardson) sobbing against a bed post with her hair swept fetchingly napwards in an interesting knot. In the end, of course, it was all too much to resist. Oh all right then Ken, thought the weary viewer, go on, tell us how it turns out, if you must.

But alas, if Dr Johnson had still been living, he would have kicked himself for already coining the quip about hope triumphing over experience. Because the promise of drama implicit in all this trailed bed-post sobbing turned out to be a cruel tease, and another good Sunday night's viewing time was hurried prodigally after bad. What was wrong with *Lady Chatterley* (BBC 1)? Why has it been so limp? Surely not all the blame can be levelled at Ken Russell's misplaced confidence in his own acting abilities. No, the main thing is that Lawrence's plot is so paltry and linear that it takes a single breath to express it; and that Ken Russell, evidently not noticing that the story needed beefing up (a sub-plot might have been nice), has instead drawn it out thin, like bubble gum, so that ultimately you can see through to the other side.

Like the walls of Mellors's so-called hut, then, *Lady Chatterley* was just too much waste and not enough daub. "Scandal threatens Lady Chatterley!" boomed that trailer again, but the trouble with this awful script ("Frankly Hilda, I don't give a damn," says Lady C, fully twenty years before *Gone With the Wind*) was that it missed even the minor plot interest of



Joely Richardson: a pretty but uninvolved adulteress

Lawrence's novel, which is that when her ladyship falls for a gamekeeper there are certain major obstacles — social, practical, moral — which make rampant hunking not the automatic next step. Here, however, despite that doomy trailer, nothing substantially threatened Lady Chatterley's love, not snobbery, not conscience, not even vowel incompatibility. Their eyes met across the chicken coop and bingo, the nut-trysts commenced. This Lady C was such an ungraspable will-o'-the-wisp — Isadora Duncan without the scarves, feathering-tones without the glasses, Bunty with clip-on wardrobe but without the depth — that her actions, like those of a sleepwalker, were somehow devoid of all consequence.

Perhaps the most compelling thing about *Lady Chatterley* has been the spectacle of good straight naturalistic acting (particularly James Wilby and Sean Bean) struggling against the grain of bad, vulgar script and no-ho directorial interventions, and finally losing the battle last night in a shipboard dénouement of spectacular tackiness. Did you notice it was Ken Russell's own voice that made the PA announcement, "Lady Jane is waiting for Sir John Thomas on the upper deck"? What a woe he is! "Do you think it will be cold in Canada?" gasped Lady C, a corny feed-line if ever there was. "Reckon we'll find a way to keep us warm," chuckled Mellors, dismally. And all over the country, viewers rolled their eyes in disbelief.

MARTIN HOYLE

LYNNE TRUSS

THEATRE REVIEWS: Benedict Nightingale on Griffiths and Shepard; Martin Hoyle on a new British voice

Hollow laughs

Comedians
Lyric, Hammersmith

HERE is a riving reminder of the dramatist that Trevor Griffiths once was and perhaps could again be, for all the unsureness of his recent *Gulf Between Us* and *Thatcher's Children*. Indeed, *Comedians* seems almost more topical now than it did 18 years ago, when it moved from Nottingham to London to Broadway, establishing Jonathan Pryce as the most dangerously charismatic actor of his generation. After all, the gap between the reactionaries and the radicals of laughter — between Bernard Manning, let's say, and the wilder alternative — comedians has grown since then. Give our funny-men another year of recession, disenchantment and polarisation, and it may be as wide as the one Griffiths polemised in 1975.

As this suggests, his comics aren't only comics. At root the play is as politically-minded as anything that the author of *The Party* and *Occupations* has written; yet, unlike those plays, it expresses its ideas indirectly, metaphorically, encoding them in a tale that itself offers plenty of tension and fun. Six aspiring comedians are auditioning for an agent who, as played by a squat, grumpy Jeff Nuttall, looks a bit like Manning and certainly shares his credo. How do they react when he makes it clear, just before they go onstage, that he expects them to pander to the LCD of public taste? Will they or won't they stay faithful to their coach Eddie Waters — in Berwick Kaler's performance, the earnest liberal-humanist of laughter — who believes that comedy should undermine people's fears and prejudices, not exploit them?

In the enjoyable second act, they come to the mike and give their answers, some sticking to their routines, some adding jokes about idle blacks, dopey micks, nagging wives and slaving nymphs. The



Gethin (Tim McInnerny): Too bitter for success in *Comedians*

verdict, in Act III, is logical enough. It is the opportunists of laughter, those happy to become commercial travellers flogging canned sneeze, who end up on the agency's books. The more principled are rejected, none more brusquely than one Gethin Price, who dresses himself as a football-hooligan Grock and makes a pair of upper-crust dummies the objects of his class ire: "There's people call this envy, it's not, it's hate."

When Pryce played this scene, you felt the need for a lightning conductor beneath the safety curtain, such was the electricity generated. Tim McInnerny cannot quite match that memory, but, in his aloof, fastidious way, he projects wattage enough. He also activates some obvious objections to the play itself. Is prejudice not prejudice when its victims are the well groomed? Is stereotyping not stereotyping when it comes from the left instead of the right? Gethin clearly has Griffiths's sympathy, as does the Irish comic who goes into a rigmorale about sex-obsessed Catholic priests.

Laughter is a slippery matter, certainly harder to categorise than whatever parries or stances these on show represent. But at least

Griffiths gets you thinking. At least Liam de Stac, Emil Wolk and the rest of Jude Kelly's strong cast leave you asking questions about the nature of humour, and life. If the 1970s produced a play that better deserves that old plaudit, "stimulating", I don't know it.

B. N.

America gets a warning

States of Shock
Salisbury Playhouse

DAVID Mamet excepted, Sam Shepard is the most highly regarded American dramatist of his generation; yet he has never had a play produced on Broadway. His work is too odd, too fragmented, too surreal for mainstream tastes. Perhaps he is also too inclined to accuse his compatriots of selling their birthrights for this or that mess of cold contemporary potage. Certainly, it is hardly surprising that *States of Shock*, which he wrote in the wake of the Gulf War, was no great success even in its modest off-Broadway habitat. Its British premiere, co-produced by the National Theatre Studio and the enterprising Salisbury Playhouse, shows it to be a weird blend of groan, curse and threat, an angry, alienated babble directed at some prime American vices.

Even at first glimpse, it is clear that the setting is not just the family dinner the characters say it is. After all, the most eccentric restaurateur would hardly cover his walls and floor with shredded snapshots of happy faces, hang X-rays of spines and skulls from the ceiling, present his eaters with a bagful of gas masks, or employ a sullen, sexy waitress who finds it hard to walk and carry a glass of water at the same time. And, sure enough, the customers confirm that what we

have here is America in impressionistic microcosm.

At one table sit a couple of all-white zombies, redly complaining of the lack of service. But it is their fellow guests who dominate Deborah Falge's tense production. One is a bemuddled army colonel, the other a young soldier in a wheelchair. Corey Johnson, playing the boy, shows the stomach wound that has paralysed him and rages against his impotence, emitting the odd cry of "long live the enemy". David Burke, the grizzled older, ripostes with endless macho bluster, alternately offering the crippled GI banana-splits and beating him for spinelessness.

Gradually it becomes clear what their relationship is. The boy is the colonel's son, but the colonel pretends he is some anonymous battlefield hero, because no son of his could be anything but strong and straight, not to mention sexually potent. And a seemingly incoherent play gains in focus as Shepard makes his accusation. This is a culture that will do anything, down to rejecting its own children, in order to protect its sense of superiority. The old pioneer values — "we were generated from the bravest stock, the Texas ranger, the Lone Ranger" — have dwindled into callousness and violence.

This is a familiar Shepard plaint. His plays contrast the glitter of the American myth with the spiritual emptiness of America now. Instead of the Old Frontier, we have what a character in *Curse of the Starving Class* sums up as "cement pilings, pre-fab walls, zombie architecture owned by invisible zombies, built by zombies for the use and convenience of other zombies". Instead of the Old West, we have Azusa in *The Unseen Hand*, a deadly mix of shopping centres, basketball games and "everything from a to z in the USA".

It is a sweeping indictment, and here it invites even more objections than usual, starting with the significance of *Desert Storm*. But the level on which Shepard operates is more intuitive than intellectual. We can, if we like, shrug off his last image, which has the GI poised over his father, ready for the kill. But why not accept it for what it is, a poet's half-fearful, half-hopeful prophecy of retribution to come? Or, to put it another way, a good Shepard's warning to his flock?

B. N.

Too many jokes

Terrible Beauty
Old Red Lion,
Islington

she becomes obsessed by him. The two embody a magnificently essential *amour fou*, the world well lost for self-destructive passion. It might be Lana Turner and John Garfield in *The Postman Always Rings Twice*.

In fact, despite the very British modern setting, Collin's model is more the swift, wise-cracking descent into hapless homicide of *Double Indemnity*. Major Bradley is a demagogue MP, a retired army man whose loyal assistant Tony bears the scars of their relationship on his burnt face. Jo-

anna Bradley works on his resentment to kill her husband. Their relationship follows the Jacobean pattern of guilty, over-reaching self-absorption.

Collin's individual contribution is to turn the dead husband's ghost into a comic turn, half vengeful, half regretful for a wasted marriage. A host of current preoccupations — MPs who wear soccer strips for sexual fun, the desire for punishment that keeps Miss Whiplash in business, the early emotional crippling that hobbles so many marriages — jostle by

without really coalescing. A secondary couple — Joanna's wimpish fancy man, a black Catholic, and a woman reporter — look set to pose questions; but issues fizzle out under a barrage of jokes. Nicola Duffett is a good Turner-substitute, with a brave blonde blowiness that Lana never designed to adopt. Tom Coulthard, as the exploded Major, is simultaneously pompous, corrupt and innocent, a sign that the author could create a complex, contradictory character if liberated from faceiousness. Best of all is Derek Ridell as Tony, rancour and just seething under military discipline. He could step straight into the Jacobean original, a very perfect malcontent.

MARTIN HOYLE

LONDON

SUNSET BOULEVARD: Andrew Lloyd Webber's latest musical based on Billy Wilder's 1950 film. Timor Nunn directs. Adelphi, Strand, WC2 (071-344 0055). Previewing from tonight, 8pm, mat. Thurs and Sat, 3pm, opens July 12.

ROYAL ACADEMY SUMMER EXHIBITION: In the last couple of years, there has been a more comfortable relationship of abstract work with representational, the more cerebral sculpture has been replaced with livelier, still fairly impressionist works, and the whole enterprise seems to have taken on a new lease of life. Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly, W1 (071-439 7438). Daily, 10am-6pm, until Aug 15.

SPITALFIELDS FESTIVAL: One of the world's largest of its kind, by David Bedford with a libretto by music critic Michael John White. Directed by Jonathan Dack and given as part of a concert by the Spitalfields Festival. 100, Spitalfields, EC1 (071-377 1362). 7.30pm.

THE VERY BIG CARLA BLEY BAND: After concentrating on jazz smaller and during the 1970s, the composer and

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Karl Knight

musical Carla Bley is back to large-scale scoring and arranging, giving plenty of opportunity for straightforward blowing. Her current output includes the new album *Carla Bley and the Big Band*, featuring the most popular of her bands, the Carla Bley Big Band. Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly, W1 (071-439 7438). Daily, 10am-6pm, until Aug 15.

REGIONAL
SOUTHAMPTON: The Birmingham Royal Ballet moves to Southampton for a week of performances. On offer is David Bintley's most popular full-length ballet, *Roberta*. Southampton, 100, The Esplanade, Southampton, SO9 (0703 555555). 7.30pm.

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MUSIC: Janáček revived; a Dublin rock-band in London; and Jessye Norman

True to nature and humanity

THE spell cast by the Royal Opera's revival of Janáček's *Janáček's* paces to nature.

Everything was there: the wit, the ache, the melancholy of the episodes, the human beings, the compassion, the pantheistic rapture of the woodland scenes, the random savagery as well as the charm of animal life (good rasping brass).

The playing was thrilling. An orchestra that can inhabit both Janáček's world and, night in night, out of that early Verdi so effortlessly and so idiomatically is surely a pearl beyond price.

The cast responds with equal fervour. Lillian Watson, as before, is a complete Vixen, encompassing both her characterisation of triumph on evicting the Badger from his set and the casual brutality with which she breaks a baby rabbit's neck. Her status as a true force of nature is vividly conveyed through her bright, true soprano tone.

She is joined by Anthony Michaels-Moore, singing the Forester for the first time. His sense of musical line, of portamento and vocal colour, is of rare elegance, and the way he combines all this with crystal-clear diction — the opera is sung in English — sets a reproachable example to rather too many other singers of his generation.

He also commands a leader's singer's use of the words he projects so clearly: the line "Winter is coming" at the end of his little Act II folksong spoke volumes.

Playing to a densely unpopulated Underworld, Dublin's An Emotional Fish started poorly, peaked early, then petered out altogether. Two-thirds of the way through their set, the small audience was almost won over. But intimidated by their own achievement, the band chose this moment to lose the plot.

Despite their claims that they are unjustifiably compared to U2 on purely geographical grounds, An Emotional Fish (surely a name the Irish giants, David Frew's echo-laden guitar over much to The Edge and singer Gerard Whelan, acutely aware, tends towards Bono's recently emulated vocal technique, particularly in his breathy deployment of dynamic extremes.

Performing over half the material from their recent and thoroughly accomplished second LP, *Jump*, the four-piece group struggled to match their live show. To Alan Moulder's lush and intricate album production, the latest single, "Rain", survived on the strength of its infectious chorus, but more subtle tunes were stifled.

Sadly, as is often the case with low-ceilinged clubs, the songs' lyrics for the most part were unintelligible. An occasional pithy phrase rose above the poor acoustics: the key line from their

An Emotional Fish Underworld, Camden

far too seriously — was especially effective. But most words remained submerged in the soupy sound mix.

As a front man, Whelan lacked a certain finesse, relying too often on an unconvincing and clumsily self-conscious weirdness. Between hoarse vocals he moved in the manner of an over-excited uncle at a family wedding, and even attempted an ill-advised approximation of Jim Morrison's risible Apache rain dance. Moreover, an excessive use of expletives in his songs and patter became tiresome and brought to mind the wise mother's

edict: "It's not big and it's not clever".

Indeed, much of Whelan's act suffered from an arrogance and laziness that only highly successful performers can afford. Curiously, when an audience member was offered the microphone and leapt on to the stage to claim the 15 seconds of celebrity, he performed with more conviction than a Whelan had all evening.

Nonetheless, "If God Was A Girl" was an undisputed highlight, boasting a lumbering, massive riff and an ingenious chorus. Unfortunately, due once again to the muffled mix, exactly what would happen if God was a girl remained a mystery.

ADRIAN DEEVOY

Too forceful a figure for world of shadows

soaked body, which she herself may have killed, and this performance left us in legitimate doubt as to whether terror and despair could be a projection of the woman's own guilt.

The soprano picked her way carefully at times from one phrase to the next, but summoned a formidable breadth of tone and feeling to generate dramatic conviction. The orchestral scoring,

with its flickering half-lights and intricately balanced interior ensembles, requires no less sensitive handling.

Here it had a conductor able to bring out the delicacy of innumerable passages as well as the broad sweep of huge emotional climaxes. Earlier in the programme Boulez worked a similar alchemy on Debussy's *Jeux*, reminding us within a few

days that — for all its reputation as possibly Debussy's greatest orchestral work — it was composed expressly for dancing. A securely maintained rhythmic impetus unlocked many of the problems, inherent in the constantly shifting focus of musical interest, and the layered textures and teasing repetitions were characterised with spirit.

Boulez enclosed this between two works much favoured by him, Stravinsky's *Symphonie de Wind* Instruments brought the players into a close-knit ensemble distinguished by lightly articulated rhythm and concern for lyrical phrasing. And Webern's *Six Pieces*, Op. 6, became a ravishing play of instrumental colour.

NOEL GOODWIN

LSO/Boulez Barbican Hall

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Why he could not carry on

Clive Fisher on the diary of a sad clown who struggled to resist the temptations of suicide, oscillating between joy and despair while entertaining a nation and inspiring the likes of Joe Orton

Conventionally, the diary is the companion of the lonely and the inhibited. But, as with every other form of self-expression, there must be as many reasons for keeping a private journal as there are practitioners. Kenneth Williams, who maintained a written confessional for over 40 years, had his own theory: the diarist was a classicist determined to impose a narrative order on his apparently random existence, and the result is the dark reflection of a troubled self-disciplinarian.

Whatever the ordered nature of his mind, however, Williams could find no purpose in the stable world of drawing-room comedy. His comic attributes — the engulfing nose, the suggestive voice, so imitative yet so unimitable — improved the attention of the caricaturist and revealed a born exponent of innuendo and pantomime chaos. Joe Orton based *Loot's* Inspector Truscott on him; and Williams found fame and prosperity in *Round the Horne* and the *Carry On* cycle by campily taunting the proprieties of his time. Yet if his public was accustomed to the sight of him undergoing humiliation, the diaries reveal a man who found housework therapeutic. After devoting his day to comedy, Williams became the evening's tortured and introspective hermit.

When the journal begins in 1942, its adolescent author betrays an uneducated but precociously independent disposition and blandly rejects *Citizen Kane* as "bolshy rot". For the rest of his life following his idols Noël Coward and Samuel Johnson, Williams was proudly opinionated, incipiently dogmatic. The narrative is resumed in 1947 when he was part of Combined Services Entertainment in the Far East. Here he met lifelong friend Stanley Baxter who advised him, six months later, to consult a psychiatrist. Williams already knew he was a "suicidalist"

and could not "believe" in existence. Forty years later, despite a defection from socialism to the Tories, an education in Eliot, Freud and Schopenhauer, the staunch friendship of Gordon Jackson and a passing fancy to Ken Livingstone, little had changed. As Russell Davies points out, after reading these chapters of despair, it is hard to accept the open verdict recorded at Williams's death.

Davies is a sympathetic editor and his dry footnotes redeem numerous mundane entries. Indeed, sympathy has overwhelmed him. These diaries are far too long; they entail much that is repetitious or banal and carry the unspoken but unbalancing suggestion that

and ultimately his drama was played out not in front of audiences and cameras, but before the encroaching walls of various bachelor flats. Despite the proximity of his adored mother, "Louie", a bulwark until senility made her a burden, Williams seems to have had no receptacle for his feelings beyond the diary's blank and uncompromising page. Various themes are salient: precarious health, tortured homosexual excursions, the oscillations between vivid happiness and resurgent despair which are the privilege and penance of the lonely.

He describes his numerous illnesses in relentless detail, but when it comes to sex, he is reticent, resorting to rhyming slang or furtive aside to convey his infrequent and humbling surrenders in London and Morocco. If loneliness was an agony, so was recognition in the streets, but when yet another night sees him finding solace in masturbation and Mogadon, it seems a callous irrelevance to consider his lack of privacy self-inflicted.

Williams might have admitted to a self-flagellating nature: he notes repeatedly that happiness engenders apprehension, and success self-loathing. The abiding impression of his *Diaries*, beyond the misanthropy which contends with generosity, the heroism of self-invention, and the intermittent passages of acuity and hilarious invective, is of a romantic nature doomed to permanent disappointment. Holidays, films, friendships are begun with great expectations and end in bitter resignation. Perhaps such disappointment is the function of a happy childhood combined with a particular emotional formation: nothing could ever be as good again. Everything except the literature he grew to love and the barbiturates he hoarded proved inconstant or illusory.

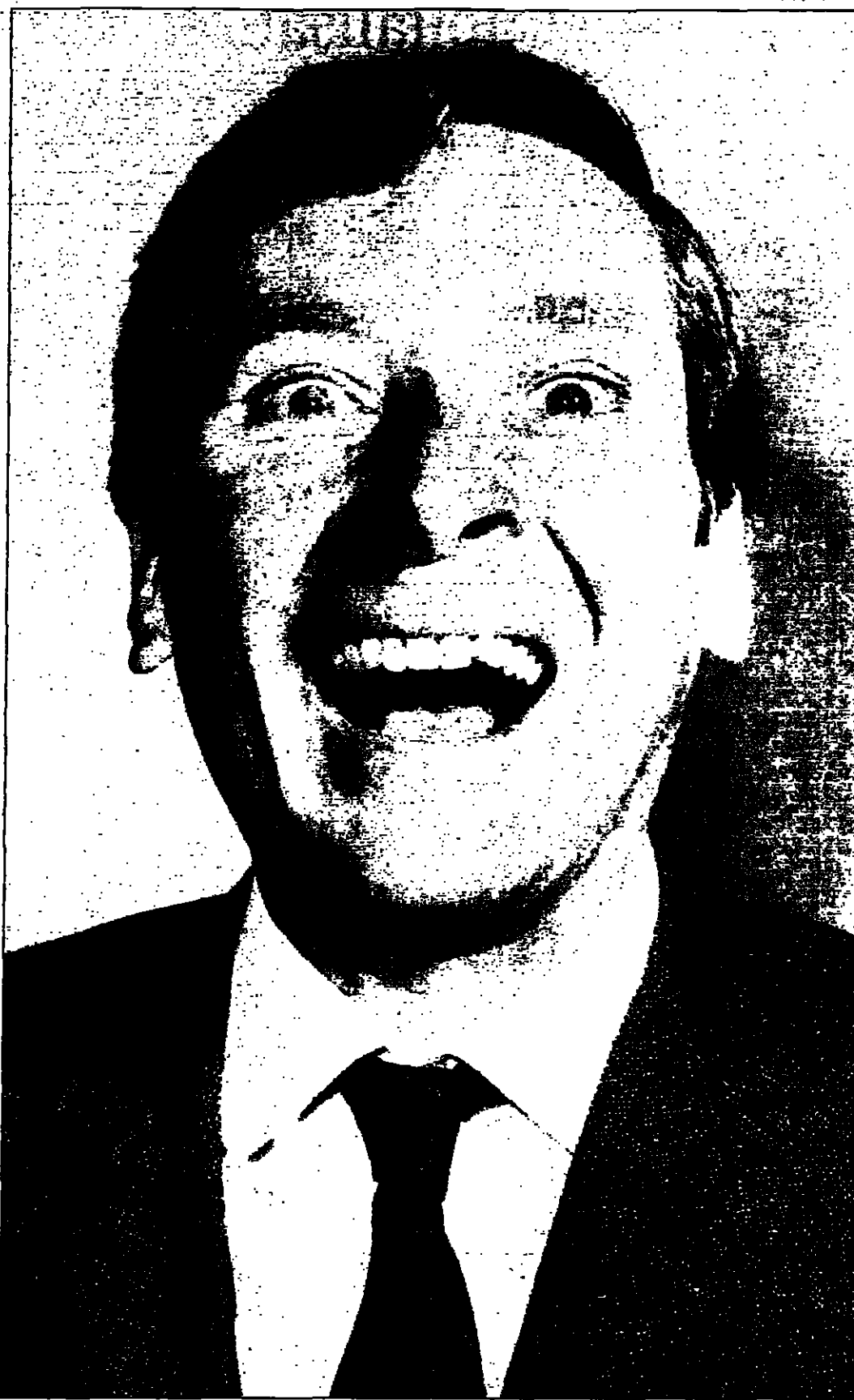
Clive Fisher is the author of Noël Coward (*Weidenfeld & Nicolson*).

THE KENNETH WILLIAMS DIARIES
Edited by Russell Davies
HarperCollins, £20

Kenneth Williams was a figure of major significance, rather than a brilliant and idiosyncratic comic performer. And for all their length, they contain relatively little of importance about the showbusiness world Williams knew.

I dread the effusive anecdote of theatrical memoirs; others may be disappointed by Williams's uninformative reports of his professional life. There are endless entries about abortive rehearsals, acrimonious Equity conferences and the tantrums of leading ladies. While we learn that Olivier thought Williams had sex appeal, there seems little of substance relating to his work with Tony Hancock or Orson Welles, and little about why, despite his misogyny, he preferred Barbara Windsor and Hattie Jacques to Sidney James and Charles Hawtrey.

The reason for these omissions is that while Williams was a public figure, he lived his life as a solitary.



Kenneth Williams: his diaries cast considerable doubt upon the open verdict recorded at his death

Beastly beatitudes of a histrionic genius



John Dexter at Covent Garden in the 1960s: abusive but brilliant

A posthumous autobiography is a curious notion. It sounds, at worst, macabre, at best like a sleight of hand. Unless the late John Dexter, director of theatre and opera around the world, has been putting pen to paper in the hereafter, someone else has at least been acting as his medium. The introduction reveals this someone to be Riggs O'Hara, Dexter's long-standing companion.

When Dexter died tragically in a heart by-pass operation in 1989, he had been thinking of putting together an account of his career. It spanned the whole period from his brilliant productions of *Westward* at the Royal Court in the 1930s to *M. Butterfly*, starring Anthony Hopkins in 1989, and embraced the Olivier *Othello* and the original staging of Peter Shaffer's *Equus*.

Though the opening chapter contains the seeds of an autobiography, Dexter's project never bore fruit. The book is really O'Hara's compilation of Dexter's diary and notebook entries and copious letters. These are often delightful in their own right, but there are shortcomings in the editing. O'Hara's introduction never explains the exact nature of the source materials, and the extracts are only inconsistently headed "Diary" or "Notebook". There is no acknowledgement that excisions and reordering have occurred.

The results can be mystifying and, indeed, misleading. That opening chapter, for example, looks for all the world like an autobiographical essay in a first draft. No mention is made of the fact that O'Hara has actually pieced it together from a selection of pads in which Dexter scribbled over several years.

Some fairly dry material is included: lists of telephone calls

Kate Bassett

THE HONOURABLE BEAST
A Posthumous
Autobiography
By John Dexter
Nick Hern Books, £25

made and letters to be written during Dexter's years at Olivier's National Theatre, at the New York Metropolitan Opera House, and back at the National under Peter Hall. Such extracts take *The Honourable Beast* beyond a bed-time read and into the obscure realms of the theatrical reference book. Yet O'Hara's impressions would not satisfy anyone with a serious interest in Dexter.

There is a helpful chronology of productions at the back, but a few simple inserts en route would have made the narrative thread of his life easier to follow. The absence of explanatory footnotes also makes it a very in-house affair. The reader is left reaching for a *Who's Who* and wondering what Dexter's cryptic references to back-stabbings and blow-outs at the National, the Met and the Royal Court are about. What could possibly have occurred to make Dexter say "sucks boo" to Max Stafford-Clark? And what is one to glean from this: "Back trouble and Arnold (Weston) trouble, which only really ended with *The Merchant* and that night at the flat in New York?" Such private notes float between the tantalising and the frustratingly obscure.

In spite of technical hitches, this is an engrossing, entertaining book that constructs a portrait of an artistically progressive individual devoted to his work and overflowing with ideas. Dexter is endlessly

funny and usually furious. He also composes wonderful letters to everyone from Joan Plowright to David Hockney, from Tom Stoppard to Kenneth Tynan, injecting each word with affectionate warmth or downright rudeness.

One cannot but admire his courage and enjoy a slight frisson on discovering the sophisticated stinkers he sent to Laurence Olivier. He did not mince his four-letter words when it came to Nureyev or Hopkins, either. His abusiveness can be a little too outrageous and is certainly not politically correct; but it is hugely amusing, comes like a blast of fresh air, and is usually counterbalanced by loving praise later.

Dexter's style is infused with integrity and passion. He was, according to his own account at least, repeatedly let down by his associates. There was, for instance, the double betrayal by the two Peters: Hall, who (he claims) promised him an associate directorship and then gave it to someone else, and Shaffer, who did the same with his play *Amadeus*. At such times, Dexter is the master of moral indignation, his notes and letters an impressive blend of stalwart resilience, angry rebuke and mature level-headedness.

In real life, Dexter was not quite so decent. He was a terrifying bully who could turn a room dark. He was known to chase actors round tables, indulging in spot of less than subtle sexual harassment and offered parts to actresses on condition that he could sleep with their partners. You would never divine that from this book. Understandably, being edited by someone so close to home, it emphasises the honourable and skirts around the beast.

One longs to see more of the replies Dexter got by return of post which no doubt gave as good as they got. Never one for politeness himself, he would surely, even posthumously, relish a tribute with a splash more irreverence and dramatic conflict.

Not surprisingly, O'Hara decided to exclude almost all the private letters addressed to himself. Judging by the endearing strength of feeling evident even in Dexter's official correspondence, we are thereby probably missing a good deal. In any case, his death was our loss. The joy of his writing is that it seems to bring him back to life.

A WEEKEND AT THE OPERA

Buxton Opera Festival

July 30 — August 1

JONATHAN Miller directs the two operas at the heart of this year's Buxton Festival — and Theatre Club members can see both as part of a special weekend break.

On Friday evening (July 30) the opera is *Maria Stuarda* by Donizetti, a romanticised version of the last days in the life of Mary Queen of Scots, written in 1834. It comes to Buxton direct from L'Opera de Monte Carlo. After the opera there's late-night supper cabaret. Saturday's main performance is Chabrier's comedy, *The Secret Marriage*. On Sunday there is an afternoon presentation of *Flesh And Blood*, about the trials of family life.

All at £180 per person which includes all tickets, two nights' bed and breakfast at the Portland Hotel, supper on Friday, dinner on Saturday and Sunday lunch. More details and bookings on 0298 71493.

LONDON

Royal Opera House

The Cunning Little Vixen

July 10

Save up to £76 on two tickets for Janáček's delightful opera, conducted by Bernard Haitink. Bill Bryden directs with designs by William Dudley. Tickets are £49 or £39 (normal prices £87, £70). Telephone 071-240 1911.

Albany Theatre

Separate Tables

by Terence Rattigan

July 5

First-night tickets for £12 (normally £20) to see Peter Bowles, Patricia Hodge and Rosemary Leach in Peter Hall's production. Telephone 071-413-1412.

Wyndham's Theatre

Junio and the Paycock

by Sean O'Casey

July 13-17

THE record-breaking produc-

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THEATRE CLUB

tion by the Gate Theatre, Dublin, returns to the West End. Club members can save £5 on top-price tickets (normally £20 Tues-Thurs, £22 Fri-Sat). Book on 071-413 1412.

Free Parking at the

Park Lane Hotel

THE Park Lane Hotel, in Piccadilly, is offering free parking between 5pm and 11pm to Theatre Club members when they book a pre-theatre dinner in the popular Brasserie in the Park during July and August. The three-course dinner costs just £14.95 and is available from 6.00pm to 7.30pm. To book telephone 071-753 6010 and quote reference BR500. Should you wish to stay overnight the hotel is also offering a special rate for club members.

TO book for any of this week's special offers, telephone the Theatre Club on 071-413 1412, open 24 hours a day, or call the listed theatre during normal box office hours. You can also use the Club's booking line for other West End productions. A service charge may be levied for some shows.

TO join the Theatre Club either send a cheque for £12.50, made payable to The Theatre Club, together with your name, address and telephone number to The Theatre Club, PO Box 400, London E1 9DW or telephone the club booking number on 071-413 1412, using your credit card. For general inquiries please telephone 071-387 5675.

FOR up-to-date information on club events telephone the Theatre Club's advice information service on 0891 555590. Calls cost 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p.

Weaving a rich tapestry of the Conqueror's England

An execution is at the centre of Odo's Hanging by Peter Benson (Hodder & Stoughton, £14.99): not, however, that of a person, but of the masterpiece in needlework known to us as the Bayeux Tapestry, commissioned by Bishop Odo, half-brother to William the Conqueror.

Who was the designer of this extraordinary work of art? And who did the needlework? Answers to these questions are offered in this engaging novel. Turold, the Norman, is the designer, a large man in every way, generous, talented, fiery tempered and devoted to his art.

The story is told by Robert, his young apprentice, who is mute, for reasons we never discover, but there is the possibility of a terrible event in his childhood. He is highly intelligent, very observant, and also attractive to the opposite sex.

Designed originally to commemorate William I's reign the king himself, a powerful figure with natural dignity, takes a hand in the design. Odo, father of dozens of bastards, is a warrior priest, and an

unpleasant character. Opposing him, as Turold does, takes the arrogance of the artist with belief in his vision. There is a terrible quarrel between patron and artist when it is decided that text should be added to the drawings.

Interwoven with the dark side of the making of the tapestry is the relationship between Turold and Ermenburga (the abbess lusted after by the bishop): the fate of Rainald the priest, who is called to be a hermit; and a happy future for Robert and the pigeons he keeps and loves. The research seems impeccable, with one exception. Neither Turold nor Robert realise that you cannot thread a needle by licking the wool.

Having finished the admirable series on Richard Sharpe, Bernard

Cornwell has begun another. *Rebel* (HarperCollins, £9.99) is based on a similar format. In 1861 Nathaniel Starbuck is a Northerner in the American South, joining Faulconer's Legion, one of the private regiments hastily raised at the start of the Civil War.

Strangely from his Boston family, cheated by the girl he loves, Nathaniel finds himself fighting the battle of Bull Run with a collection of people who have no idea of how to wage war. An exciting story, and a very promising beginning for future designs.

In *Mary Queen of Scotland and the Isles*, by Margaret George

(Macmillan, £15.99), Mary is the guiltless heroine, suffering from late, poor advice, and nothing is ever her fault. Here she writes the Casket letters, is guiltless of the death of Darnley (a suicide and murder plot by Darnley, complicated by two freelance murder gangs) and there is a quick scrub round the plots against Elizabeth.

Bothwell, of all people, is the hero. It is a splendid adventure story, stretching over more than 800 pages, and immensely readable, with a tragic ending for Mary and one even more so for Bothwell.

The *Horizon* by Douglas Reeman (Heinemann, £14.99) is the third book in the annals of the Blackwood family, whose men join the Royal Marines. *The Badge of Glory* concerned slavery in Africa

PHILIPPA TOOMEY

Capitalisation, week's change

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Pragmatic factorie

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1. The first group of variables includes the following:

The above
information
is being furnished
to you for your information.
It is requested
that you advise
this Bureau if
you have any
additional information
concerning this matter.

Sincerely,
Special Agent in Charge

Enclosure

1. The first step is to identify the problem or issue that needs to be addressed. This involves gathering information and understanding the context of the problem.

100

LBS expects 3m jobless for whole of next year

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE economic recovery remains fragile and unemployment is likely to rise to 3 million in the next few months and stay there throughout next year, according to the London Business School's latest economic outlook.

Despite stronger than expected growth in the early part of this year, the LBS has not raised its forecast for growth in the year as a whole, which stays at 1.5 per cent. However, it is more pessimistic about prospects for 1994, when it predicts growth of only 2.75 per cent due to the drag on the manufacturing and exporting sector as the recession in Europe intensifies.

The report says that there is already evidence exports are being held back by the European slowdown and predicts a current account deficit this year and the next three of near £20 billion. The current boost to economic activity from consumption, which has been relatively buoyant, will weaken next year as the higher taxes announced in the Budget hold back the growth of real disposable incomes.

The LBS believes unemployment has not yet breached 3 million because of "pressure on the unemployed not to claim benefit and the unwinding of the acceleration in job losses that occurred last autumn when it appeared that the recession was continuing" but that unemployment will start rising again in the second half of the year.

The government's big problem is the twin deficits - public sector and current account. David Currie, one of the Seven Wise Men of the Treasury's forecasting panel, and Geoffrey Dicks of the London Business School say the Chancellor should put in place further measures to cut the public sector deficit of the same size as those already announced in the March Budget, which totalled £10 billion.

Like other members of the forecasting panel, which

meets today to finalise its latest report to the Chancellor, Mr Currie believes the economy needs rebalancing to cut consumption (which has accounted for an ever higher proportion of gross domestic product in recent years) and so release more money for investment and net exports.

Some on the panel say tight fiscal policy should be accompanied by lower interest rates, but the LBS does not advocate this unless the economy shows clear signs of faltering. It is totally against lower rates at this stage of the recovery. Inflation, it adds, will remain within its 1-4 per cent target range this year and next but it is now at the bottom.

Real growth in commercial property will not be seen until mid-1994 despite recent signs of increased investment in the UK property market. The report forecasts a slight rise in capital values in the fourth quarter of this year but negative investment returns continuing. Real growth is not expected until the second and third quarters of next year.

□ The number of people in work is set to rise by more than 200,000 from September to the end of next year, David Kern, National Westminster Bank's chief economist, says in the July issue of its *Economic and Financial Outlook*.



Currie: "rebalancing"

Orders underline GEC strength

GEC, the cash-rich defence electronics to power engineering giant headed by Lord Weinstock, should report a small, but solid, advance in full year profits on Wednesday, buoyed by a huge order book.

The cash mountain at GEC is expected to exceed £2 billion, while the group's order book is thought to have grown to a massive £12-£13 billion, with some estimates as high as £14 billion. Last year, it was £10.6 billion.

Mike Styles, at Credit Lyonnais, has pencilled in final pre-tax profits of £850 million (£829 million). Market forecasts range from £840 million to £870 million. CIL expects earnings to climb to 19.5p (18.6p) a share, with a total dividend of 10.2p (9.6p).

The bulk of GEC's earnings come from the defence industry which is one of the least geared to the general economic situation. Marconi accounts for about one-third of group profits.

Analysts will be looking for news on fresh defence orders from the Middle East and Far East as well as heavy demand for power equipment from the GEC-Alsthom JV joint venture with Alcatel Alsthom of France.

GEC makes avionics systems equipment for the Tornado fighter bomber, 62 of which have already been ordered under the multi-billion-pound Anglo-Saudi Arabian Al Yamamah oil for arms programme. The next phase of the order is expected to include 48 Tornados as well as some 60 Hawk trainer/fighter aircraft.



Eastern promise: Lord Weinstock's GEC is looking for new defence business

Interim: Alstom, Caldwell Investments, Copymore, Fleming Income & Capital (21), Widney Finance, Alfa, Berkeley Group, Brent Walker, Caledonia Investments, Camellia, European Motor Holdings, Hewlett, Midland & Scottish Resources, Northern Electric, Novo Group.

TODAY

An aggressive acquisition drive by Alstom seems to be paying off, but interim results will be overshadowed by last week's news of an OFT enquiry into the UK travel industry to see if tour operators are using links with travel agents to limit customer choice.

The group's seasonal business means it will turn in a first-half loss of between £7.5 million and £9 million, excluding exceptional after a failed bid for its Owners Abroad Group rival, against £5.59 million loss last time. Full-year profit forecasts range from £44 million to £47 million.

TOMORROW

Securicor Group, whose finances continue to be dominated by its 40 per cent stake in Celotex, the mobile phone operation, is expected to report interim pre-tax profits of £27 million (£26.6 million), according to UBS. The Security Services subsidiary is forecast to report interim profits of £19.1 million (£18.6 million).

Interim: Aukett Associates, Donohoe Printing, Heston Brewery, Securicor Group, Security Services, Finco, Anchor Int'l Fund (2), British Bio-Technology, Debenham Tewson, Feedback, Farnant Int'l, Halse,

Joseph Hoyle & Son, Lister & Co, Lowndes (Lambert) Group, MS International, Randoir Int'l Estates, Seaboard, William Sindell, Walker & Staff Holdings, Western Areas Gold Mining.

WEDNESDAY

UBS expects a significant recovery in the supply business and aggressive cost cutting to help final pre-tax profits at Eastern Electricity advance to £185 million (£143.1 million) with a dividend of 19.2p (16.7p). Forecasts range from £172 million to £190 million.

Interim: City Site Est, Greenwich Comm. Finis: Aberdeen Steak Houses, Cassidy Brothers, Dwyer, Eastern Elec, GEC, Harstone Group, Jones & Shipman, Templeton Emerging Markets Inv, TR High Income Trust (2D), Wishaw, Economic Statistics Digest of statistics (June), economics trends (June).

THURSDAY

Final pre-tax profits at South-

ern Electricity are forecast to climb to between £185 million and £189 million (£166.3 million). A dividend of 19.2p (16.6p) is predicted.

Interim: Crest Nicholson, Eurocamp, Partridge Fine Arts, Finis: BPS Industries, Compo Holdings, Gibbs Mew, Southern Electric, TR Technology, Umeco. Economic statistics: Cyclical indicators for the UK economy (April - third estimate).

FRIDAY

NatWest Securities is looking for London Electricity to have boosted profits to about £154 million (£142.5 million). The dividend is expected to climb to 19p (16.6p).

Finis: Acis Group, Charwell Group, Crane Europe, Fuller Smith & Turner, London Electricity, Northamber, Economic Statistics: UK official reserves (June).

PHILIP PANGALOS

Amex is on the way back, Golub says

By PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

LEHMAN Brothers, the investment management subsidiary of American Express, is about a year from being able to earn a stand-alone A credit rating, according to Harvey Golub, chief executive of the US travel and financial services group.

At the completion of the sale of its Shearson Lehman retail brokerage arm to Primerica for \$1 billion next month, the equity base of Lehman Brothers will still be \$400 million to \$600 million short of that rating, Mr Golub said.

After 12 months, Amex would have "lots of options" for Lehman Brothers, including sale to another party, sale through an initial public offer, and keeping it. Mr Golub said. He refused to comment on speculation that Amex is in talks with Deutsche Bank about Lehman Brothers, but said that a sale could be possible before 12 months is out and that the company had had "serious conversations".

Mr Golub was opening Amex's new Frankfurt office in his first official visit to Europe since becoming chief executive at the end of January, when he took over in an upheaval that saw James Rob-

inson step down as chief executive and as chairman.

The task of Mr Golub and of Richard Furlaud, the new non-executive chairman, has been to restore confidence in the group. Mr Golub said yesterday that he believed they had achieved that.

Mr Golub said Amex's core travel-related services business was ahead of target in its \$9.6 billion 1991 cost base. This year, he said, there would be an \$800 million reduction on an annualised basis, and the company had identified the total of \$1.6 billion savings that it could make.

Amex had improved its relationship with outlets accepting its cards, Mr Golub said. The most important thing Amex had done in this was to cut its charges to merchants. Amex's charges have been much higher than rivals', deterring outlets from accepting its cards. Amex was also trying, Mr Golub said, to slow a loss of cardholders, down 5 per cent this year.

Amex plans to buy more travel agencies. It has just bought Nyman & Schultz, a Swedish business travel firm, to expand its European work.

Nikko ready to move into Eastern Europe

By MARTIN FLANAGAN

NIKKO Securities, the broker, says it is poised to strike some "interesting deals" in central Europe against the backdrop of the troubles at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

The Japanese-owned broker says talks on several projects are at a sensitive stage after the rapid transformation in the past nine months of the old communist command economies to the western model.

Tad Phillips, Nikko associate director and head of business development for central Europe, said: "We don't want to say too much at this stage but we are working on a few things which, if they come off, could be very interesting. Things have certainly been picking up since last autumn in terms of opportunities."

It is understood Nikko believes Poland has particular potential, despite its recent

political upheavals. Although Nikko will not comment officially, industry sources think the EBRD controversy, which culminated on Friday with the resignation of Jacques Attali, its flamboyant head, will not impede the broker's attempts to penetrate the central European financial arena.

One source said: "The shake up at the bank could even help western financial expertise move into central and eastern Europe, because of the public perception, whatever the reality, that the EBRD is now on a more positive, 'can-do' basis."

Mr Phillips said: "The difference now is that we are not just dealing with entrepreneurial pipedreams, with individuals wanting £5 million of western backing. Now you are getting established private companies, with a market presence, seeking western aid. It is much more promising."

Pragmatist at No 11 knows that the factories of Britain decide his fate

THE new Chancellor boasts that he is a politician rather than a technician. He is determined to dissociate himself from the Treasury's "motorway madness" and to return to broader issues of "national interest". This message was reinforced in his interview with the *Financial Times* last week.

What Kenneth Clarke said then was mostly to do with style, rather than substance. He was disarmingly frank, and obviously charmed the journalists - who appeared not to notice his inconsistencies. He implied that his priority was facilitating wealth creation, but seemed to contradict that when he said that the public spending deficit was too big and that, if GDP growth were insufficiently fast to tame it, he would raise tax.

Was he saying that he would be prepared to sacrifice growth to get the books straight? If so, wealth creation is not his principal objective. Why, in any case, did he rule

out public spending cuts? Did he approve of the increased share of resources allocated to the public sector in recent years? Was it to be supposed that the public sector's use of funds would be more productive than the private sector's? These questions were not put, but it is unlikely that they would have disconcerted him.

'Kenneth Clarke represents a revulsion from new-fangled continental doctrine'

Mr Clarke disdains too much precision. He is proud to have no pre-set convictions, and intends to decide each issue as it arises. He acknowledges that he will give as much weight to political imperatives as financial ones. It is a return to old-style British pragmatism - a revulsion from new-fangled continental doctrine.

Mr Clarke is perceptive enough to know that a finance

minister's success depends primarily on his economy's underlying performance.

In the 30 years to 1980, the disciplined approach of the German authorities seemed to provide an enviable combination of brisk growth, low inflation, balanced public finances and external surpluses. However, it was not so much the

monetary zealots in the Bundesbank as the efficiency of German production that achieved this. Now that the Germans are uncompetitive and work-shy, the same policies are stoking an economic inferno. The Bundesbank image has slipped a good deal. In years to come, Schlesinger may become synonymous with financial ineptitude.

What is important to Mr

Clarke's political future is how the UK economy progresses in the next few years. He may well be fortunate. Britain's productive core has undergone a leap in efficiency in the past 10 years, and the advance shows no sign of slackening.

The British manufacturing sector is probably the most competitive in Europe and the same goes for much of Britain's service sector. If we are to judge by what we know to have been happening to productivity, and by what is reported to have been happening to demand for labour, GDP must have been growing by at least 3 per cent a year in the first half of 1993. Such growth has no great implications if short-lived. If sustained, however, it works wonders. It did so in the mid-eighties, and might again in the nineties.

The gilt market will be well pleased with an autonomous contraction in the PSBR, especially if the productivity surge that prompts it also keeps inflation low, but the story will not be wholly bullish. An acceleration in GDP will be associated with a rise in private borrowing, real interest rates will have to stay high to ration funds.

Of much more relevance to the near-term outlook for gilts will be financial developments on the Continent. The recession there is so awful that very sizeable interest rate cuts will have to be made in the next few months. As they occur, sterling will rise. What will Mr Clarke do - leave our interest rates unchanged and let inflation be squeezed to zero, or cut them in a partial shadowing of the ERM brigade?

His remarks on the subject are, typically, ambivalent. It does not matter though: gilts will rise in either event. If he does nothing, prices will be bid up on the back of an appreciating currency; if he cuts with enthusiasm (more likely, in our view), prices will be lifted by purchases financed with cheap overdrafts.

ROGER NIGHTINGALE
Roger Nightingale & Associates

WORD WATCHING

Answers from page 44

BRANDADE

(c) In full, *brandade de morue*, a Provencal dish made from salt cod, French adaptation of the Portuguese *brandado*, literally "thing which has been moved or shaken". "Brandade de morue", cod fillets cooked with garlic, cream, olive oil, lemon juice and a teeny suggestion of fennel.

MACASSAR

(b) Macassar ebony, the dark-coloured wood of *Diospyros celebica* and related species from Celebes and Andaman Islands. "Ebony, Macassar. This wood is imported in large billets and round logs. The colour ranges from dark brown to black, and a large proportion of the logs are streaked with yellow or yellowish-brown, some very handsomely figured pieces being occasionally found."

TOCHARIAN

(a) Of pertaining to, or designating an extinct Indo-European language spoken in the latter half of the first millennium AD, of language spoken in the latter half of the first millennium AD, which remains have been discovered in Chinese Turkestan, from the Greek *Tocharoi* in Strabo: "One isolated language in the far north-east (the now extinct Tocharian, which has become known to Western scholars through the discovery of documents in this language)."

QI

(b) The physical life-force postulated by certain Chinese philosophers, the material principle, from the Chinese *qi* air, breath. "Chang Tsai (1020-1077) put forward a metaphysical system based on the theory that *qi*, either or matter, existed at the beginning of the world. He held that *qi* consolidated itself into the end of the beginning, and that things dissolved into *qi* at the end."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

Black gives up his knight with 1... Nxd2 and after 2 Rxd2 g3 Rb3 Kd2 the g-pawn will inevitably cost white his rook.

CHANGE ON WEEK

US dollar

1.4817 (-0.0153)

German mark

2.5137 (-0.0005)

Exchange index

79.5 (-0.4)

Bank of England official close (4pm)

FT 30 share

2264.9 (+12.4)

FT-SE 100

2887.5 (+8.1)

New York Dow Jones

3490.89 (-3.88)

Tokyo Nikkei Ave

19659.57 (-144.97)

Third World goes unheard while French farmers scream

Janet Bush welcomes the return of The Link in the debate on how best to help the economies of both the developed and less developed nations

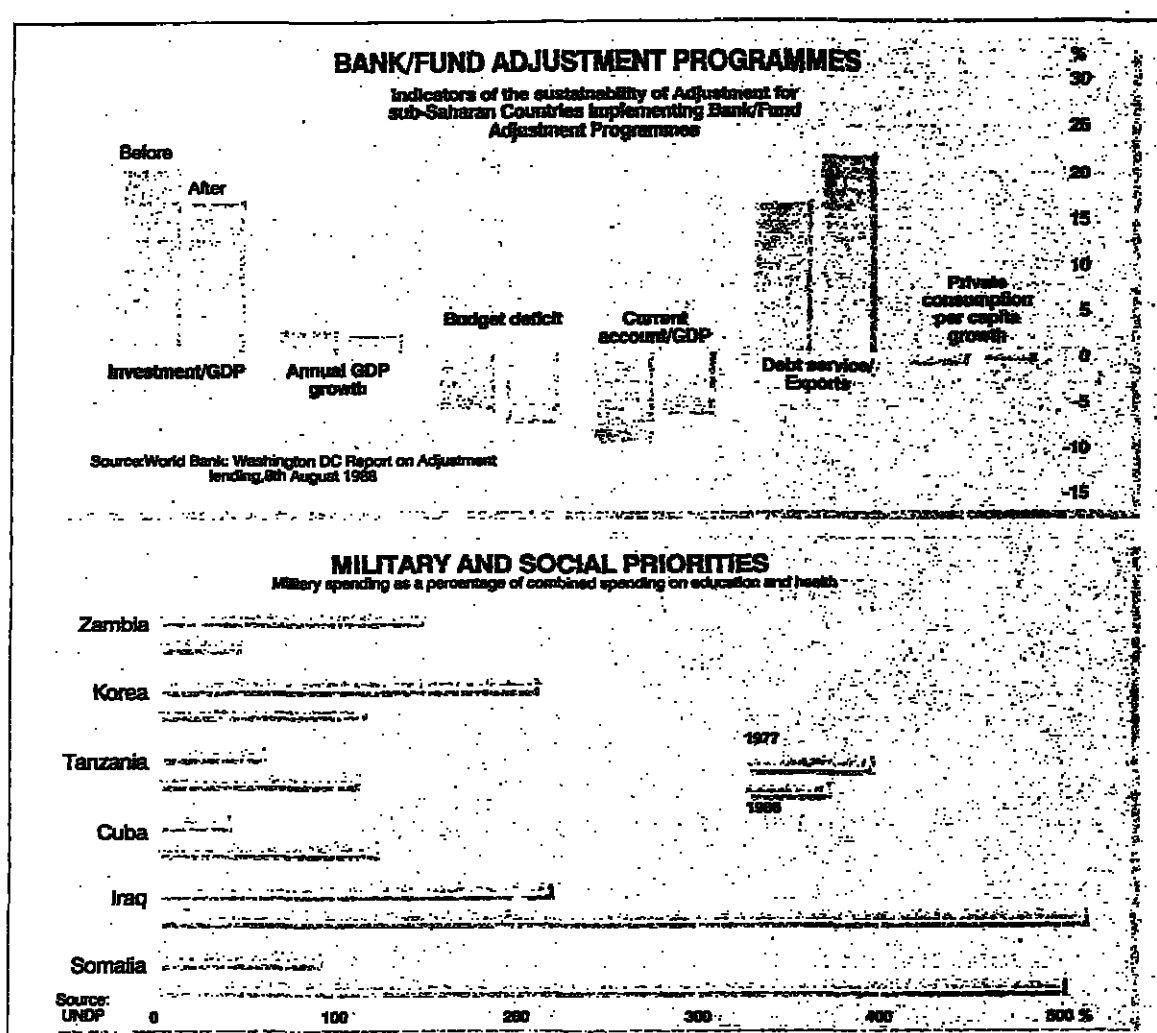
The searing poverty of the poorest Third World countries, exacerbated by the failure of the industrialised North to make the necessary decisions on debt relief, is insinuating itself back onto the world economic agenda. The new-found interest owes less to a rediscovery of morality than an increasing awareness that global slump affects everyone. The plight of the less developed countries — and most of the poorest are in sub-Saharan Africa — seems a far cry from agonising in the highest echelons of German industry about eroding competitiveness, or internecine battles in the European Community about the pros and cons of the social chapter.

But there is a link, and one brought to life by John Eatwell, of Cambridge University, who was Neil Kinnock's chief economic adviser up to the last election. Speaking at a London conference arranged by One World Action, he suggested that Africa could be the solution for the stagnating economies of Europe. Vision is needed, Dr Eatwell suggested a revival of The Link, a popular notion in the 1960s when the world, as now, was suffering from a lack of liquidity. The idea was that the International Monetary Fund create new money through special drawing rights (SDRs) and that these should be distributed to the poorest countries in the world. The huge virtue of this is that these countries were likely to spend every cent sucking in imports from developed nations.

This kind of thinking has the powerful attraction of providing the capital that the world's poorest countries need to develop — and it is unlikely to come from commercial banks on a large scale or at supportable terms — and providing a boost to demand in the industrialised countries that does not seem to be coming from anywhere else. The objection to the creation of SDRs in the 1960s was that it would be inflationary, but Dr Eatwell notes that economies were running near to full employment then. This time, the recessionary industrialised countries are not running at anything like full capacity and high unemployment levels are keeping workforces on the defensive.

Some, particularly those who believe the solution to Africa's problems is in adopting free market practices that have often ill-served their own economies, will dismiss this as regurgitated 1960s nonsense. But it does, at least, invite policy-makers to think at a different level about the related problems of debt deflation in industrialised countries and Third World debt, global recession and capital shortage.

Official thinking on Third World debt confines the self-interest argument to the balance sheets of commercial banks: there is little recognition of the wider arguments of interlinked world economies with mutual interests. As Adebayo Adedeji, director of the African Centre for Development



and Strategic Studies, said: "The northern countries have an almost pathological obsession with not linking the world recession with the debt of the south." The main thrust of policy towards less developed countries has rightly been debt forgiveness (debt and debt service accounts for as much as 30 per cent of sub-Saharan Africa's export earnings) but the process of building consensus on the issue has been painfully slow. This month, a British proposal gave new impetus to international efforts. Anthony Nelson, economic secretary, told the One World Action conference that Britain was pushing for up to 80 per cent of debt of the poorest countries to be written off, against the 50 per cent envisaged under the Trinidad Terms proposed by John Major in 1990.

Britain also proposes that those debt-ridden countries with a good track record under programmes designed by the IMF should be given immediate relief on their outstanding debt, in addition to relief on their debt servicing. The total debt outstanding for low income countries is about \$150 billion, yet, under the Trinidad Terms, only \$1.75 billion has been written off.

New momentum should improve this record after the recent offer by America, which has been the main stumbling block to implementation of the Trinidad Terms, to write off 50 per cent of debt for Africa's poorest countries. Debt forgiveness is also on the agenda at the summit in Tokyo next

month and the Commonwealth finance ministers meeting in September. Edward Jaycox, World Bank vice-president for Africa, has said creditors are moving towards full implementation of the Trinidad Terms for poorest countries and concessional debt relief is envisaged for middle income countries such as Zimbabwe and Nigeria. Even if the British can overcome reported resistance to debt forgiveness from Japan, for example, the current approach is both limited and flawed.

Mr Nelson made clear that debt forgiveness would remain contingent on countries accepting conditions laid down by the IMF and World Bank — and that means structural adjustment programmes. These demand, among other things, balanced budgets (and, in Africa, cuts in welfare, health and education provision) and a drive to

grow crops for export. This clearly gives the lie to any notion that western creditors are particularly interested in Africa's long-term development. As Professor Adebayo Adedeji points out, structural adjustment, and the debt relief contingent on it, is little more than a scheme to generate foreign exchange to pay off commercial banks. The implementation of structural adjustment — even if you agree with its principles — is illogical. For example, military spending in sub-Saharan Africa grew from 0.7 per cent of GNP in 1960 to 3.5 per cent in 1990, a five-fold increase. If structural adjustment is to

yield results, lending conditions should address this kind of thing (and override the needs of western arms makers).

Dr Mahbub ul Haq, special adviser to the United Nations Development Programme, believes you only have to look at those countries with the highest ratio of military versus social spending to see the troubled countries of the future. Somalia was an obvious spot some years back. "Peacekeeping in Somalia is costing \$2 billion a year: nobody gave that in aid," he said.

Creditors have a basket case mentality in which only the most chronic cases are considered for debt write-offs and loan concessions

Africa is going to need huge new flows of capital stretching long into the future if it is to reverse its economic and social decline. Dr Eatwell suggests an SDR issue of \$100 billion spread over three years to give an idea of scale.

Above and beyond all these debates is the reality that Africa, for example, is far too dependent on exports of commodities that have been falling in price for years. Dr Haq estimates that Africa lost \$30 billion during the 1980s because of falling prices. He said: "Any amount of aid and debt relief is more than wiped out by falling commodity prices."

While the screams of subsidised French farmers ring loudest in the ears of Gatt negotiators, regions like Africa stand little chance.

OATs near harvest time

EUROPEAN bonds market may have reached a turning point. Despite the tremendous pressure on the mark and German bonds at the end of last week, ten year bunds maintained a water-tight premium to ten year French OATs of two basis points. This is a line that investors are unlikely to cross, however loud the anti-Bundesbank rhetoric.

Normal rules do not apply in Europe's currency and bond markets at present. The traditional premium on German bonds has disappeared due to the Bundesbank's hesitation on further interest rate cuts but the mark is tumbling on the belief that rates will eventually fall. The two-way pull has been created by the market's loss of faith in the Bundesbank and the German economy, but the Buba has not yet said its last word.

Friday's consumer price index data from the German regions suggests the country's inflation is still stubbornly sticking above 4 per cent. As a result the Bundesbank will be hard-pressed to find an excuse to cut the

discount rate this Thursday although a cut in the repo rate on Wednesday for technical reasons may deceive the market that one is on the way. If the rate is unchanged the central bank will be forced to defend its policy at the G7 summit on July 7.

After that there are only two further Bundesbank meetings, on July 15 and 29 before the long August break. The speculation of a rate cut in the run-up to each day will intensify. If the Bundesbank caves in to the scorn from the unholy alliance of George Soros and Edmond Alphandery, it will confirm market fears and bond prices could perveerly fall along with the mark as fears about German inflation intensify.

If the Bundesbank holds firm, critics will continue to carp about its loss of initiative all summer, but at least the Buba will have demonstrated its independence. At that point, bond investors may finally question whether France's inflation is really a better ten-year bet than Germany's.

Fund managers

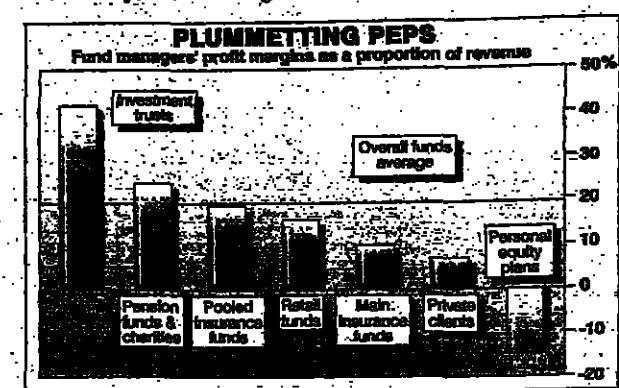
WHILE the rest of British industry has spent the past five years paring costs and raising productivity, fund managers have been growing expensive and inefficient. That is the bleak implication of Eric Waterhouse's annual survey of the investment management industry.

In 1988, it cost the average fund manager £1,200 a year to look after every £1 million in segregated, institutional funds. Today it costs £2,000, a 68 per cent rise which is more than twice the rate of inflation during the period. Fund managers may argue that clients want more expensive international investment in their fund, that technology has advanced apace during the period and that compliance costs have risen. None of this excuses managers for failing to become more cost-

effective. Inefficiency is most glaring in personal equity plans where their losses totalled 15 per cent of revenues last year despite the market's growth. The survey shows that less than 10 per cent of PEP costs are actual fund management. Almost half goes in administration and marketing.

In reality, asset managers

have had no incentive to cut costs. The boom in equity prices since 1988 has ensured their revenues have advanced even faster than costs, so profit margins have risen. Fund managers will only face the crunch if lower world inflation filters through into slower growth in share prices. Then such overheads will catch them out.



Third world debt

THE secondary market in third world debt has once again been turning in tremendous profits to investors brave enough to trade in it. The growing awareness of the high yields available on better quality debt, coupled with economic advances in other countries, has pushed the market 8 per cent higher in the last month, to make a 17 per cent rise for the year.

Some of the more speculative issues have performed best. Prices of Peruvian debt have risen by almost 70 per cent in the past year in the hope that it will be converted into equity in the country's forthcoming privatisation programme.

In the past year, the third world debt market has grown much more popular among institutional investors, who are resorting to it to maintain the yield on their funds. Mexican war bonds, which carry a nominal yield of 6.25 per cent, are still trading on a 27 per cent discount to face value, which makes them extremely at-

tractive in comparison to US Treasury bonds.

Risks may look high, but there could still be further rises. If Standard & Poor's gives Mexico an investment-grade rating of BBB-, its debt could attract legions of American institutions.

For all its promise, the market is still dangerously volatile and investors should only enter with their eyes wide open. Last year, the value of Brazilian debt almost halved in a matter of days as the country's economic prospects dimmed. Political upsets are still too common in Latin America to allow complacency.

Field Group

THE new issue market has been a staggered paradise this year, with even the less attractive shares attracting premiums of up to 30 per cent on the first day of dealing. Such premiums attract scorn from the companies concerned, who rightly feel that such a greeting by the market means that their well-paid advisers underpriced their

shares, denying the company additional funding.

Not unnaturally, merchant banks are becoming more aggressive in their pricing of new issues. Field Group, a paper, packaging manufacturer, is being floated by Schroders this week on an ambitious historic p/e ratio of 17.7.

Field is a well-managed company and the leader in the £830 million paper packaging market. It was part of the Reedpack management buy-out in 1988 and underwent a second MBO two years ago from SCA, which had by then bought Reedpack. The company is due to complete a £6 million acquisition after the float and is on course to make £13.7 million this year, which reduces the p/e ratio to 15.

The shares at 25p still look fully priced. RFC, another Reed buyout from SCA that makes plastic packaging, recently came to market on a p/e ratio almost three points lower. Those interested should buy Field shares to keep there is unlikely to be a first day bonanza.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Tinker, sailor, researcher, Guy

BEESON Gregory, the smaller-than-average stockbroker, is making a determined push to increase the profile of his research department. The secret lies in the elevation of Guy "Tinker" Bell, one of four analysts at the firm, who has been promoted to head of research and is looking for some new faces to help him. "We're adding brokers to 60 companies and need to expand a bit more," says Bell, 32, who qualified as a chartered accountant at Touche Ross before joining Capel-Cure Myers in 1987. Bell, educated at Oxford, moved to Beeson Gregory in 1989. He is known for his sailing exploits: he was once nearly run down by a car ferry while sailing round Poole Harbour in the dead of night. Meanwhile, Charles Nicholls is joining Serfin Securities as head of Mexican equity sales. As a fund manager with Murray Johnstone in the early 1980s, he founded the original Brazil fund, with Audley Trivison-Davies, now of Latin American Securities, and was later Latin American specialist with Stephen Rose and Partners. His mission is to strengthen the firm's European distribution network. Serfin Securities is the UK arm of Operadora de Bolsa Serfin, Mexico's biggest stockbroker.

A CYNICAL far doing the rounds in City dealing rooms: "Are you lonely? Have having to make decisions? Then hold in meeting. You can get to see



Attali: resignation

other people, sleep in peace, offload decisions, feel important and impress (or bore) your colleagues. And all in work time. Meetings. The practical alternative to work."

Tricky Dicky

FOUL play was in evidence at the offices of Smith New Court last week when Nick Redfern, one of the UK salesmen, invited guests from Equitable Life in for an evening quiz. A last-minute entrant was Richard "Dicky" Dale, Smith's lively media analyst, who is described by colleagues as the firm's "smallest man with the loudest voice". After discreetly positioning his team nearest the only available telephone, Dale ducked under the table to question on Scrabble came up. Later, when asked the name of the object 20 kilometres off Plymouth, he promptly telephoned a friend in Devon to obtain the answer: the

Eddystone Lighthouse. No prizes for guessing whose team won.

Tokyo tune in

SIGN of the times? Beary-eyed City commuters driving to work will soon be able to tune in to a round-up of Japanese business affairs — in Japanese — if a consortium aiming to win a licence for its new London Business Radio station has its way. If the heavyweight bid attempting to win one of eight available licences is successful, the proposed programming schedule for its new LBR station, which would start broadcasting on the AM frequency later this year, intends to reserve a few minutes a day for Japanese-speaking listeners only. The consortium, including GWR, the independent radio contractor, Reuters, and Associated Newspapers, plans to follow a daily Tokyo and Far East dawn report with a three-minute broadcast at 5.45am each day on Japanese general and business news. The Radio Authority will decide which applications will gain London licences in September or October.

Cream of the drop

LLOYDS Chemists, the UK's second-largest chemist chain, is enjoying its second year as official nursemaid to players and spectators at the Wimbledon tennis championships. It seems that the most popular product amongst the players this year is a cream providing a waterproof protective layer for skin grazes and blemishes.

The demand has nothing to do with on-court tumblers, however; the players are using the cream to tighten their racket strings.

Boule of thumb

THE Europeanisation of the City moves on apace this week when brokers and dealers clash in the annual Hay's Galleria/Cottons Sports Club Petanque Challenge. Last year's runner up, CE Heath, the insurance broker, is keen to relieve the reigning Cottons champions of the trophy. But they face a ferocious threat in Jean-Claude Fouque of Coutts & Co, who warns that the game — France's answer to bowls — is unpredictable at the best of times. "You cannot always count the boules and make them go where you want," he explains. "That is why la boule is feminine." He adds mysteriously, "It has a mind of its own."

Drawing a blank

WHEN the backs piled down to the marbled and magnificent European Bank at Broadgate on Friday to "doorstep" Jacques Attali after his resignation, the reception desk proved something of a barrier. The uniforms went firmly into no-comment mode on questions ranging from "Is Mr Attali still in the building?" to "Will there be a statement later?" Finally, one scribe asked if the Euro bank had a press office to which questions could be addressed. "No comment," said the receptionist.

JON ASHWORTH

Industry must campaign for action to assist recovery

From the General Secretary of MSF

Sir, It is encouraging when the debate on the future of Britain's manufacturing industry emphasises positive rather than negative proposals. Your report of the evidence given by George Simpson, chairman of Rover Group, to the Trade and Industry select committee ("UK industry seeks help on import substitution", June 25) is most welcome.

As a union representing 250,000 workers in manufacturing, we have been stressing for some time the need for government action over import substitution. In our documented "Manufacturing matters" — the need for a national indus-

trial strategy" launched earlier this year, we highlighted the importance of such moves. One reason for this is that some sections of British industry are using cheaper sterling to widen their margins rather than increase export sales.

What we need is a permanent forum, with participation from employers, unions, academics and Government, where all these matters can be publicly discussed. That is another recommendation from this union. There is too much secrecy about what is happening to our industry. If the Government wants to be "industry friendly" — as the new chancellor recently promised — now is the time to provide the setting for real

advances for British industry.

There will be another budget in November. We need measures in it which will aid the very fragile recovery which is taking place. They must concentrate on releasing resources to increase investment, improve training and encourage research and development. Everyone in British industry should be campaigning for these measures.

Yours sincerely,
ROGER LYONS
General Secretary,
MSF, Head Office,
Communication Services,
Park House,
64-66 Wandsworth Common,
North Side,
SW11.

Japan wins by seizing growth opportunity

From Mr William Eddis

Sir, J.W.L. Shillidy (Letters, June 24) asks how Japanese companies have become so successful. The answer is complex, but its key can be found in two points.

First, the core of employees in Japanese companies are recruited as graduates with an (unwritten) promise of lifetime employment. However, lifetime effectively means to about 55 or 60, when most people retire from their first career and move to lesser jobs. In addition, the majority of Japan's labour force, especially in smaller companies, is outside the lifetime employment system, and it is here that the flexibility exists to adjust pay rates and working hours to protect the privileged élite.

Secondly, Japanese companies seek profit through growth, rather than through margin. Thus, when demand

increases, prices are held down and investment in new capacity is made, leading to increased sales, employment and profit. This is in contrast to much of British industry, where the first reaction to increasing demand is to increase prices, thus evoking the management "problems" of making on new staff and investing in new plant. The short-term profit gain appears more important than the loss of market share and long-term profitability, leading to an increase in import penetration and, eventually, unemployment.

We do not need to adopt Japanese employment practices to follow the "profit through growth" philosophy, but, without the latter, it is difficult to see how lasting economic success can be achieved. Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM EDDIS,
56 Garendon Green,
Loughborough.

Bonus of contention

From Mr Martin E. Richards

Sir, Peter Rawlins, who resigned from the Stock Exchange following the loss of £30 million due to the failure of his "Taurus" scheme to computerise the exchange's paperwork, received a payout of £500,000.

Leaving aside the "validity" of any such payment, can someone out there explain to me, a plain and simple man, how the aforementioned figure includes a "performance-related" bonus of £75,000? Yours faithfully,
MARTIN E. RICHARDS
95 Ravensbourne Avenue,
Shortlands,
Bromley,
Kent.

ERM checked early recovery

From Mr John Wells

Sir, The Prime Minister has claimed on a number of occasions that economic recovery began before sterling's exit from the ERM — presumably to justify the severe disinflation that regime imposed.

However, from the non-oil GDP series, made available in the first quarter national accounts statistics recently released by the CSO, a quite different interpretation of last year's events emerges.

From this series, it appears that recession reached its nadir in the first quarter 1992 from which there was a modest recovery in the second quarter, after which non-oil GDP stagnated for the rest of the year — until a fairly dramatic rebound occurred in the first quarter of this year.

This is consistent with a modest recovery underway during early 1992 being held in check by the progressive appreciation of the real exchange rate and high interest rates necessary to maintain sterling within its ERM bands.

It is only following sterling's exit from the ERM and subsequent depreciation, together with associated reductions in interest rates that recovery is now underway in earnest.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN WELLS
University of Cambridge,
Faculty of Economics
and Politics,
Austin Robinson Building,
Sidgwick Avenue,
Cambridge.

Letters to the Business and Finance section of The Times can be sent by fax on 071-782 5112

CHANNEL 4

- 6.15 **I Love Lucy** (b/w). Vintage American comedy series starring Lucille Ball (63206)
- 6.45 **Odile**. Animation (2146190)
- 7.00 **The Big Breakfast** presented by Chris Ewans and Gaby Roslin (70645)
- 9.00 **You Bet Your Life**. American game show hosted by Bob Costey (9) (33653)
- 9.30 **Schools** (830615)
- 12.00 **Profiles of Nature: The Water Raiders**. A Canadian documentary about the wildlife that is attracted to water (22119)
- 12.30 **Sesame Street**. Entertaining early learning series. The guest is Danny DeVito (r) (78577)
- 1.30 **Sandokan**. Animated adventures of a swashbuckling pirate prince (r) (65312)
- 2.00 **Pinx**. Ladies in Redempt (1941, b/w) starring Ida Lupino and Louis Hayward. Housenarrative tale, set in 1880s East Angia, about a housekeeper who murders her employer in order to protect her two feeble-minded sisters. (Clara Lanchester and Edith Barrett). Directed by Elsie Vance (230138)
- 3.40 **Lord of the Sky**. Cut-out animation based on a tale from India (7638475)
- 3.58 **Grand Gable**. A repeat of Friday's programme which came from Brentnwood, Essex (Telefed) (3030401)
- 4.30 **Fifteen To One**. Fast-moving general knowledge quiz. The question-master is William G. Stewart (Telefed) (s) (506)



Quest for water: the African elephant (5.00pm)

- 5.00 **Kingdom of the Plains: The Plains Came**. Filmed on Kenya's Tsavo Plain during one of the worst droughts, a look at the ingenious methods devised by elephants and other animals to obtain water (f) (Teletext) (9003)
- 6.00 **Children's Ward**. Drama series set in a large general hospital (f) (#81)
- 6.30 **The Cosby Show**. American domestic comedy series (f) (Teletext) (111)
- 7.00 **Criminals**. Crime (f) and weather (746312)
- 7.59 **Comment**. Martin Griffith, director of the charity Action Aid, argues that the United Nations needs new ways to help the Third World (373654)
- 8.00 **Brookside**. Topical soap set in a suburban Merseyside close. (Teletext) (s) (#480)
- 8.30 **Surgical Spirit**. Operating room comedy starring Nicky Katt as an acerbic surgeon (f) (Teletext) (8515)
- 9.00 **Magic or Medicine?** (Teletext) See Choice (4645)
- 9.00 **I'll Fly Away**. Episode three of the 22-part drama set in the American Deep South during the social and racial unrest of the 1950s, starring Sam Waterston. (Teletext) (s) (287667)
- 10.59 **High Noon**. Jean-Luc Godard concludes his two-part exploration of the power of the cinematic image (880003)
- 11.45 **Rebellion of the Hanged**. Last of the three-part drama set in Mexico during the early 1900s (f) (417954). Ends at 1.00am

_____ (45)
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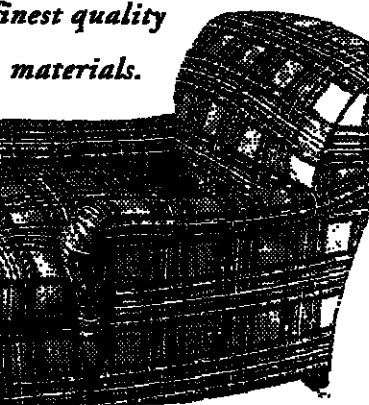
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your Reddy House (

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France may quit ERM unless Germans cut rate

By ANATOLE KALETSKY
ECONOMICS EDITOR

FRANCE may be ready to leave the exchange-rate mechanism if the Bundesbank refuses to follow its call for sharply lower interest rates in the next two months, according to official sources who have attended meetings involving the French and German governments.

The public row between the French and German finance ministries last week, after Edmond Alphandery, French finance minister, demanded "aggressive" interest rate cuts from Germany to be coordinated with similar moves in France, was only "the tip of an iceberg" of private recriminations between the governments, one official said.

Another said he had expected France to pressure the Bundesbank for closer monetary co-operation once the Bank of France was made politically independent. But instead, France now seemed less willing to accept the constraints of co-operating with the Bundesbank. According to some officials, the new assertiveness in Paris reflects

■ A divergence between the French and German attitudes to exchange rates and trade has widened as France's need for lower interest rates has grown

political and economic pressure for much lower interest rates. The French government is believed to have promised industrialists that short-term interest rates would be reduced to about 4 per cent by early next year. To achieve this, without leaving the ERM, France would need the Bundesbank to lower its rates aggressively, starting before its summer break on July 29.

Other sources believe that France has decided to take the lead in European monetary policy after recent predictions from international investors that the mark would fall against the franc if the ERM broke up. M. Alphandery gave the first public hint of this on Friday, when he said that France would be prepared to support the mark in future, just as Germany had supported the franc in the past.

French pressure on Germany has grown significantly

in the last two weeks, after private meetings between industrialists and Edouard Balladur, the prime minister. At these meetings, called by M. Balladur to canvass support for employment and privatisation programmes, the government is said to have been given an ultimatum: "4 per cent interest rates or a huge surge in unemployment".

According to another account, the French industrialists posed the prime minister with a more complex dilemma: unless the Bundesbank cut interest rates quickly, France would have to abandon either the single market or the franc-mark link.

France has become more aggressive in international meetings about the competitive gains made by British, Italian and Spanish industries as a result of currency movements. One of the reasons given by British officials against further reductions in sterling interest rates is that France might "lose patience" and undermine the single market if the pound fell any further against the franc.

Germany, by contrast, has expressed no such concerns. As one German official noted, "some German industries have been hurt by the falling pound, lira and even peseta, but for us this is a very small industrial sector".

International officials have also noted a widening divergence between the French and German attitudes to global exchange rates and trade. Two weeks ago, at an OECD meeting, France argued for a fall in the mark, franc and other European currencies against the dollar. America noted that such calls were incompatible with Germany's expressed desire for a stable mark.

Some official sources say the Bundesbank may welcome France's challenge to the status quo in the ERM, with some members of the Bundesbank council having long opposed plans for European monetary union.



Rear view: Peter Middleton would represent the Council of Lloyd's at the new subsidiary, Lysold, proposed to separate past losses from future business

Alternative Lloyd's rescue sells 'fair, fast' solution

By SARAH BAGNALL, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

LOYD'S names are being asked to vote on an alternative business plan, which proposes building a "concrete wall" between 1994 and the past, resolving all litigation, giving names an 18-month standstill on cash calls and an exit from the market within two years.

The final details of the plan, entitled *An Improved Solution for Lloyd's*, are to be unveiled this week. Its authors, who include David Springbett, a former senior insurance figure and a member of the Lloyd's errors and omissions working party, hope that the plan provides a "fair, fast and welcome solution that is also affordable and commercial".

The plan proposes splitting Lloyd's into two. All the insurance market's reserves and liabilities relating to 1993 and before will be transferred into a new run-off company, Lysold. This will enable Lloyd's to start afresh from January 1994, something considered vital if corporate capital is to be attracted. Lysold

will be owned entirely by the names but 30 per cent of its voting rights will rest in the hands of the Council of Lloyd's. The council would be represented on Lysold's board by Peter Middleton, Lloyd's chief executive, and one external council member.

The plan also proposes a solution to the legal actions by loss-making names. Lysold will take on the liabilities of the litigating names in return for the names paying a minimum of 40 per cent of their debts. In the case of Goods Walker and Feltrim, Lysold proposes that names, who are among the market's hardest hit, pay 40 per cent of their losses to offload liabilities to Lysold.

The plan suggests capping future cash calls at a maximum of 200 per cent for all years after 1985 and 50 per cent for all years before 1986. Lysold plans to be a corporate capital investor, providing an estimated 25 per cent of the market's corporate capacity

next year, which gives names the opportunity to carry on investing in Lloyd's in the hope that their losses can be offset by future profits.

The plan proposes setting up a Bermuda-based investment subsidiary, Lysold Insurance, which will manage the names' reserves on a tax-efficient basis. By using financial reinsurance, Lysold Insurance could create a surplus running into billions of pounds. This could be deployed to resolve litigation, provide corporate capital, and fund the Hardship Fund, Lionover and Centrewrite.

However, the surplus will not be enough to fund all Lysold's intended commitments and as a result the plan proposes that Lloyd's pay an annual royalty to Lysold over the next 25 years. The royalty will be 2.5 per cent of Lloyd's total gross capacity within indexed limits of £250 million and £500 million. Meanwhile, Lloyd's is trying to implement its own business plan.

GrandMet takes pubs off market

By MARTIN WALLER AND NEIL BENNETT

GRAND Metropolitan has failed to find a buyer for its Chief and Brewer chain of pub-restaurants after months of talks with interested parties in the drinks industry and has withdrawn it from the market.

GrandMet, increasingly concentrating on its drinks business and its American food and burger operations, may now split the 1,600-strong chain into more manageable parcels to tempt buyers.

The asking price of £750 million, or almost £500,000 a pub, was seen as too steep, particularly with big brewers effectively ruled out because they would have run into monopolies problems after the government-inspired shake-up of the brewing industry.

Although the £500,000 looks fair compared with recent pub deals, especially as Chief and Brewer concentrates on dining, which is more profitable than straight beer sales at the bar, industry sources say that the chain has been starved of

investment and requires up to £400,000 per pub to be spent on improving its standard.

GrandMet has already hived off its brewing side to Courage, the Australian-owned beer business, in a pub-for-breweries swap. Sir Allen Sheppard, chairman, has made clear that other disposals are in prospect to cut borrowings of almost £3.2 billion. GrandMet is increasingly focused on its American Pillsbury food and Burger King businesses and its international drinks brands.

Splitting the chain, which includes Old Orleans, Country Rye and Country Grill outlets, could attract independent pub groups, or former regional brewers now only running pubs. GrandMet could sell the whole chain if one of the majors chose, like GrandMet, to exit brewing — which trade gossip says Whitbread is likeliest to consider — and it used the money raised to add the chain to its estate.

BT3 discount likely to be set at 10p

By OUR CITY STAFF

THE government and its advisers are expected to offer private investors in the British Telecom BT3 share sale a 10p discount on their first instalment. Sp5 less than the discount that was offered in 1991 for BT2. A final decision will be made at a pricing meeting today.

To entice small investors to buy the shares, the government, as in previous sales, is offering them a discount to the price that will be paid by institutional investors.

The possible discount lies between 10p and 15p, but the preference is said to be heavily weighted towards the lower end of the range and for a round number — on grounds of simplicity.

Small investors have al-

ready been offered a 10p discount on the second and third instalments, compared with 15p last time.

The flotation of the government's third and final tranche of British Telecom shares is expected to raise £5.5 billion and is targeted at both the public and institutional investors.

Public interest, despite a costly marketing campaign, is said to be subdued whereas the interest shown by the institutional investors is seen as healthy.

The discount will be unveiled in a prospectus, which is to be published tomorrow. The first instalment on the shares which will be paid by the institutional investors is likely to be set at 160p or 165p.

Countax cuts a swathe through ride-on mower market

By DEREK HARRIS



Easy rider: Harry Handkammer and the new Countax machine

COUNTAX, the newest of Britain's big league lawnmower makers, is about to announce a fresh leap in sales of its ride-on tractor machines.

During the recession Countax has achieved striking growth for a machinery maker. Since its launch less than three years ago, it has overtaken established competitors in the ride-on tractor sector with a claimed market share now approaching 30 per cent. Its machines typically are used for lawns of an acre or more and for topping orchards and paddocks.

First-year turnover of £2.7 million soared to £6.7 million in the 12 months ended July last year at the Oxfordshire firm. In the financial year just ending, sales are expected

to have reached £8 million, a 20 per cent increase.

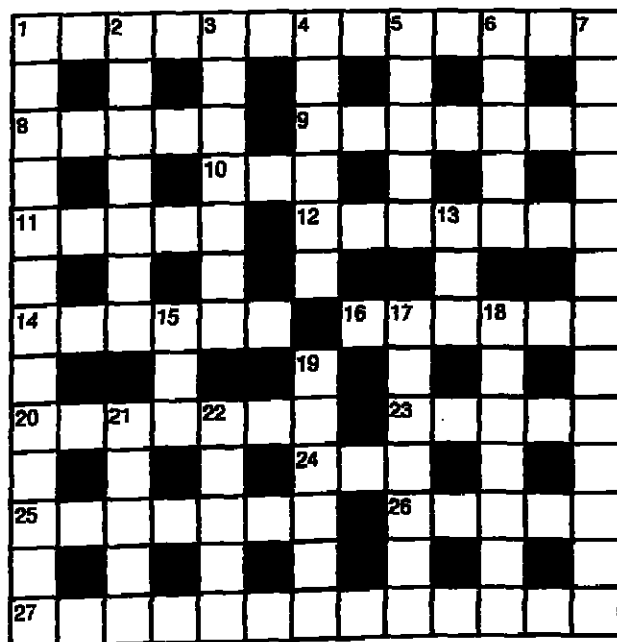
Harry Handkammer, the Countax managing director, believes in ploughing profits back into the business and this past year has seen research and development spending running at 4 per cent of sales. This led to the new "Rider" model, which features a powered-brush grass collector and costs from just under £1,300.

Mr Handkammer said: "Our grass collector system will collect long or short wet grass such as you often get in Britain and much of Europe. The Japanese and American makers, the main source otherwise of rider machines, have grass collectors suited to the usually dry,

coarser grass found in the United States. Use them here and they easily get blocked up."

Countax is stretching to meet orders for more than 1,000 of the new machines which came on the market last month. Next season Mr Handkammer expects to sell about 2,500 in Britain and 20 per cent of total machinery production is currently exported.

Countax's main competitor in the ride-on market has been Westwood, part of Ransomes, the grass-cutting machinery group that includes Mowfield. Ransomes had a pre-tax loss of more than £4 million in its last full year but was back in the black in the latest half with a pre-tax profit of £2 million.



ACROSS

- 1 Understanding (13)
- 3 Bequeath income (5)
- 9 Somewhat red (7)
- 10 Honey insect (3)
- 11 Massive horned beast (5)
- 12 Young offenders centre (7)
- 14 Warmly unreserved (9)
- 16 Disturbs (6)
- 20 Melody counterpoint (7)
- 23 Cuban dance (5)
- 24 Formic insect (3)
- 25 Comply with norm (7)
- 26 Dark brown (5)
- 27 Rigid (5,2,1,5)

SOLUTIONS TO NO 3132

ACROSS: 1 Mandrake 5 Calm 9 Reviver 10 Raver 11 El Al 12 Colonel 14 Coccyx 16 Object 19 Bencher 21 Zest 24 Adult 25 Virtual 26 Drey 27 Indebted
DOWN: 1 Mark 2 Naval 3 Rivalry 4 Kirschi 6 Advance 7 Morality 8 Oral 13 Scabbard 15 Conjure 17 Bizarre 18 Proven 20 Hate 22 Stunt 23 Glad

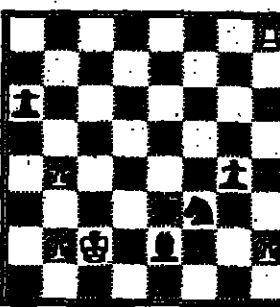
DOWN

- 1 Prepare for action (5,3,5)
- 2 Punctual islands (7)
- 3 Oared craft (7)
- 4 By this means (6)
- 5 Depths (5)
- 6 Dolt (5)
- 7 All limitations removed (2,5,6)
- 13 Observe (3)
- 15 Motorists' group (1,1,1,1)
- 17 Trouble (7)
- 18 South West Africa (7)
- 19 Philatelic items (6)
- 21 Moses mount (5)
- 22 Above it all (5)

By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Short — Kasparov, Belgrade 1989. Previous encounters between these two have been heavily in Kasparov's favour and today's position is an example? Can you work out black's winning plan in the endgame?

To book your seat for The Times World Chess Championship match between Garry Kasparov and Nigel Short ring 071-497 9777.



Solution on page 41
Championship Chess, page 5

By Philip Howard

BRANDADE
a. An elastic bandage
b. An advertorial puff
c. A salt cod dish

MACASSAR
a. A gen's hair pomade
b. A dark wood
c. Camel cavalryman

TOCHARIAN
a. An extinct language
b. A kind of Arian heretic
c. A crossbowman

QI
a. The Burmese devil
b. The life force
c. See more at reference cited

Answers on page 41

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